

# DASHBOARD BUTTONS

INSIGHTS AND ENCOURAGEMENT TO  
EMBOLDEN YOUR FAITH

**Alan Caplin**



DASHBOARD BUTTONS EXTENDED EDITION

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# I'D LIKE TO DEDICATE THIS BOOK TO THE STORM.

No, God doesn't send storms our way, but He does sustain and nurture us while we are in them. I'm truly grateful for past trials for each one brought deeper revelation of WHO God is and WHO I am in Him. Eagles use the force of winds beneath them to fly to even greater heights. Much the same, sons and daughters rise far above earthly troubles...to find out that every single amazing thing God has said about us is true!

Perseverance is such a gift, for it shapes our character and brings us to spiritual maturity. Without these storms—and learning the authority in Christ I have over each of them—I wouldn't be the person God is using today to bring freedom to the broken, hurting, and lost.

Christ in us is greater than anything that can come at us!

Romans 5:3-5

James 1:4

1 John 4:4

Isaiah 54

# Foreword

My good friend Alan Caplin's excellent book, *Dashboard Buttons*, strengthens believers with a series of bitesized revelations straight from his heart. He makes each revelation easy to understand with daily life analogies and relevant scriptures. These nuggets of truth pack a superhero punch of deliverance and wisdom.

Having been raised Jewish, Alan's unique perspective of grace and truth is both empowering and refreshing. I believe you will enjoy this book as a valuable tool to delve deeper in your journey of faith.

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# Introduction

It's funny how we awaken to what is **ALREADY** true about our identity in Christ. Coming out of Judaism in 1991, it took me 25 more years to figure out the awesome things that come with salvation. Yet, no matter how long it took me to get there, what I discovered as true...was always true! In short, His Truth > Our Process.

What Jesus says about me will always be true, even if my heart and mind aren't quite there in agreement yet.

It's like this...

My son sells Volvos. He sold me a brand-new car a year ago, but I'm just **NOW** asking him what the buttons do on my dashboard. Folks, he lives in my **OWN** house. I could have asked him at any point since I got the car from him, but I am just **NOW** deciding to ask him. Yet. These cool features in the vehicle didn't just now show up when I decided to ask... they've always been there!

My wife and I both left Judaism, and we believed enough in Jesus to risk being forever cut off from our extended families. Yes, for a Jew to openly accept Jesus, you'd better believe what you believe—because most Jewish families will wear black arm bands, cover the household mirrors in black felt, never speak your name again, and



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consider you dead. Tragically, Jesus is seen as the reason for 2,000 years of persecution, and Jewish believers are perceived as joining the enemy camp.

So, for us, belief was never the core issue. In reality, the issue was a lack of maturity in Christ.

Why?

We failed to receive proper discipling, and we subsequently had a poor understanding of what happened at the cross. In fact, we faithfully attended church for decades without realizing the true power of salvation—here in the earth, now!

On my road to discovery, I've written over 300 blogs about identity, faith, and our sonship. Much of what was written and posted to social media was simply to encourage others, and to grow others as I grew. As a result, this book is a small collection of those blogs, and is meant to encourage you and to stir your faith.

Folks, salvation is so much more than just going to heaven. Salvation is the gift of sonship...as a new creation you were factory on board equipped with **ALL** the spiritual bells and whistles! But, most of us either take what others say as truth, refuse to seek Him for greater understanding of **WHO** we are in Him, or simply fail to ask God what the buttons on our dashboard do.

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Yes. The very second you believe from your heart (Romans 10:10), you are fused to heaven. You are in perfect union, eternally wired, and **YOU** have **NOW** stepped over into the **FOREVER!** Your spirit and His Spirit are fused as **ONE**. You have access to all of heaven. You are a **NEW** creation. Not an upgraded version of an old creation—rather, you are a brand-new design!

So many people I know are realizing the powerful giftings that reside within them. Yes, you have the same power within you that raised Christ from the dead.

**YES**, you can speak in tongues!

**YES**, you can heal the sick!

**YES**, you can cast out demons!

**YES**, you can dream dreams!

**YES**, you can hear God!

**YES**, you can move in the prophetic!

**YES**, you can raise the dead!

**YES**, you can have visions!

You have been perfectly equipped by the Manufacturer for power in this earth...to advance the kingdom.

And, **YES** this might move your cheese some, but all of the above are **WITHIN** you at belief...even **BEFORE** you are baptized in the Holy Spirit!

Your union **WITHIN** is for **YOU**, yet your baptism of the Holy Spirit **UPON** you...is for others.

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Deeper theology will be tackled in a subsequent book...but in the meantime...move beyond your daily struggles and dare to ask God, "What does this button do?" And see your purpose appear.

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

Romans 6:3-6 and 6:11; Colossians 2:13 and 3:3; Philippians 2:1; Acts 10:38; Luke 3:22; Ephesians 1:18-23 and 2:5; I Corinthians 6:17 and 15:22; 2 Corinthians 5:19; and Mark 16:17-20.



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# The Belly of Belief

From the belly of belief:

We rest in His perfect love.

We rest in His peace.

We rest in His strength.

We rest in His promises.

We rest in His word.

We rest in His goodness.

We rest in His works finished before time.

We rest in His favor.

But.

Rest will never be letting God do all the work.

Rest isn't sitting on a couch eating Bon Bons.

Rest is a Person. Jesus. He is our rest.

Rather, the point.

We believe and trust in Jesus unto emotional, mental,  
and spiritual rest.

Yes. It is possible to work hard and persevere within His  
purpose, and have rest at the same time. In fact, our very  
best work will always come from our fixed position of  
rest.

# Kinks in the Hose

This morning as I was waking up and getting out of bed, I had a sudden mental picture of a green garden hose.

Yep. The water spigot was turned up all the way, the water was free flowing, and the hose was swaying about left and right.

Born first of the earth (water) and second of heaven (spirit), believers are meant to flow the same way (John 3:5).

Free flowing.

Free moving.

Unrestrained.

Unshackled.

Filled with power and life.

But.

Kinks in hoses restrict water flow.

Kinks in hoses restrict water output.

Kinks in hoses restrict movement.

So—what puts kinks in our spirit-filled hoses?

**FEAR.**

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Fear restricts movement.

Fear restricts output.

Fear restricts freedom.

Fear of rejection.

Fear of hurt.

Fear of failure.

Fear of man.

Fear of being wrong.

Fear of lack.

Fear of change.

Fear of doing things differently.

Fear of following a voice instead of the crowd.

Fear of having to wait.

Fear of breaking tradition.

Fear of surrender.

Fear of being mocked.

Fear of giving up to get.

Fear of not being like everyone else.

Fear of losing what you have.

Fear is the kink in the hose of faith, and without faith it's impossible to please God (Hebrews 11:6). In fact, fear will always be the thief of your destiny. Fear is the outward manifestation of reliance on **SELF**.

Folks. We are called to rest in what has already been finished.

Trust Him.

Trust His voice.

Trust what you know to be true.

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Trust truth even when your eyes try to fool you.

And freely move like water, wind, and spirit.

John 3:5 Jesus answered, "Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit."



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# Adam Names Eve

I find this interesting...

Eve eats the apple, sells Adam on the idea. They both mess up. God hands out consequences, and right after their death sentence...Adam names his wife.

Yeah, not before the fall. But. After!

Adam could have named her anything—and man, he had to have been mad. He now had to work the fields and toil all his days in the land. Yet. Adam chose to name her Eve, which in the Hebrew—*Chavah*—means to breathe, to live, and to give life.

He recognized the good from the fall instead of the bad. He recognized life would come—and she'd be the mother of all the **LIVING**.

Life is here.

Healing is here.

Joy is here.

Fullness is here.

Peace is here.

Hope is here.

Freedom is here.

**NO MATTER THE SITUATION**, perspective is everything.

# Believe

Cars run on gasoline. Flat screen TVs run on electricity. Barbecue grills run on propane. The fake fireplace in my house runs on natural gas. And, of course the Energizer Bunny™ runs on a very durable battery.

Yet, the kingdom runs on belief.

When an argumentative crowd gathered around Jesus and mockingly asked him, “What must we do to do the works God requires?” Jesus answered, “The work of God is this: to believe in the one he has sent.” (John 6:28-29)

Just believe? That’s it? Isn’t there more? We just believe and **STOP** there?

Yes, that’s all we do - believe.

No, of course we don’t stop there. We keep going!

Once we believe and make an internal shift toward Him (Hebrew: *teshuvah* or Greek: *metanoia*) our hearts are changed. We are given a heart just like His and a right Spirit (Ezekiel 36:26-27). We become a new creation in Him, powered and compelled by His love (2 Corinthians 5:14-17).

Strengthened by Him (Philippians 4:13), and moved by the new nature dwelling inside us, we can’t help but keep going!

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Belief. That was it. That was the starting point.

The rest of our walk is fruit.

Look, Jairus' daughter had just **DIED**—there was good reason to panic—and Jesus tells him, “Don’t be afraid; just believe, and she will be healed.” (Luke 8:50) That was it. Just believe. In fact, when Jesus got to Jairus’ house to raise his daughter from death...Jesus put all the unbelievers (paid mourners) **OUTSIDE** the house.

They didn’t believe, and missed out on the spectacular!

Yet. We **do believe** and get to see the spectacular—in us, through us, and around us!

At its core, the kingdom runs on belief.

Our belief fuels great faith. Faith is the living, breathing, daily application of belief. Faith is belief in action, and the “walking out” part of our believing.

Jairus certainly believed Jesus, but being a long way from home, he had to literally walk out that faith as they headed back to his house.

But, the best part is that faith is something that God **FREELY GIVES you**, because you first believed (Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31). Your faith isn’t yours, it’s **HIS!**

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We don't faith harder, we believe **DEEPER**.

Believe deeply that **YOU** are loved.

Believe deeply that **YOU** are already free from sin.

Believe deeply that **YOU** have already been forgiven.

Believe deeply that **YOU** have already been chosen.

Believe deeply that **YOU** are already made whole.

Believe deeply that **YOU** walk in His authority.

Believe deeply that **YOU** hold His power within you.

Yes, out of the belly of your belief, **HE** will fuel your walk. Yes, **HE** gives you what you need to keep moving. Yes, **HE** is the durable battery that keeps you going! Yes, **HE** gives you the faith of **JESUS**, who lives and dwells inside of you.

Yes, Jesus who dwells in you **IS** your measure of faith for each and every circumstance. You don't strengthen you, **HE** in you strengthens you! You don't guard your heart and mind against the negative influx of the world, **HIS PERFECT PEACE JESUS** does (Philippians 4:7).

Yes, **YOU** already have the faith for whatever comes your way...because **HE** is the way.

Believe. Pray. Listen. Believe deeper within you. Walk. Keep going.

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# Mountain Move!

I had a major revelation today while out walking.

Jesus cursed the fig tree and it withered in full from the roots in 24 hours. Yes. The disciples began to see the tree wither immediately (i.e., droop down from a lack of moisture), but when they came back to the tree the next morning, they noticed the roots themselves were dried out.

When the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, “How did the fig tree wither at once?”

Jesus then immediately parallels the tree to a mountain.

And Jesus answered them, “Truly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, you will not only do what has been done to the fig tree, but even if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea,’ it will happen. And whatever you ask in prayer, you will receive, if you have faith.” (Matthew 21:20-22 ESV)

Mountains have roots. Mountains grow.

Mountains have roots that extend into the earth up to five times deeper than the visible surface portion of the mountain is tall. Mountains also grow over time as tectonic plates shift, and mountains will grow to the

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point that the downward force of gravity exceeds the push up from within the earth.

Jesus is saying, to permanently move a mountain—you must first tear it up from the root! Then, it can be cast into the sea.

- All sickness has a root.
- All trouble has a root.
- All distress has a root.

To move the mountain by a **mustard seed** of faith, we must first cut off (literally meaning to curse) all supply to the root.

- Fear.
- Pride.
- Unforgiveness.
- Bitterness.
- Anger.
- Malice.
- Demonic.
- Covenants with darkness.

Every mountain that continues to grow in our lives has a root source. And it will grow until the root is dealt with.

Worse, at the core, unbelief feeds the root of the mountain sized problem. And what was once a hill, grows itself to mountain sized proportions.

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In fact, even if you could rip out a giant mountain without taking the root too...over time the mountain will grow back!

Folks. We don't move the hand of God, we rip out and move the mountain itself. God's right hand moved 2,000 years ago—cut off supply to the problem, and by a measure of faith that has already been provided, toss your sorrow into the sea!

You think you can't move it...because, well...it's a mountain! But. Choke out the root system.

Don't believe harder, believe deeper. Deep to the core of your heart, and kill the root of the mountain by being firmly rooted in the love of Jesus!

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

Matthew 17:20; Romans 12:3; Ephesians 3:17

# New Heart

I gave my heart to Jesus?? No, not quite.

Technically, Jesus has given to me His **OWN** heart.

In Christ, I am a new creation with the throngs of His heart. I didn't give up me. No—I simply became a living, spirit-born creature of Christ.

I am no longer the old flesh-driven version of me, I am now the new upgraded spirit-governed version of me.

By faith, I have been infused with Christ Himself and given a personal identity (a new nature) wrapped around both Him and His own goodness.

Believer...**YOU** are spirit—but you can choose to operate from what brings death and is now obsolete: the flesh (mind). Yet, Paul says, “The mind (flesh) governed by the spirit is life and peace.”

Yes. We become exactly who and/or what we seek after.

## **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

Ezekiel 36:26-27

Ephesians 3:17

Romans 8



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# Count the Cost

Folks, the real cost of the gospel is selflessness. That's not a question, it's a statement of Truth.

You died, you've been made alive, and you now don't belong to you (Colossians 3:3, Romans 7:1-4). We are commanded (1 John 3:23) to do two things: 1) believe and 2) love like Jesus did.

Yet. We can only love like Jesus if we fully suspend self like Jesus. This is what Jesus asked of the disciples, and Jesus asks no less of us. We can only love to the full if we deny ourselves to the full, pick up our destiny, and follow Jesus to the death of self.

The less we fixate on self, the more power we will walk in. That's exactly what Jesus did—He was equal to God (Philippians 2:6) but humbled himself to become flesh in full surrender to the Holy Spirit.

We are called to the same and told to count the cost of following Jesus. Yet. That's the cost...ourself.

If you want **ALL** of God, it will cost you **ALL** of you. And there is no better trade.

# Love to the Full

Those who misunderstand love as:

- Enabling
- Non disciplinary
- Non-self-sacrificial
- Non persevering
- Non demanding

Will never be able to walk in His true power.

The fuel behind His miracle power is agape!

Sin is paid for—yes, perfect. Yet. Our character is a constant work in progress. Character matters much.

Love is the greatest gift one can walk in, and God's love is something beyond just finite human knowledge. Since this love can't be known in complete full with our own minds, Paul urges us to **BE** filled with the fullness of His love—so others can **EXPERIENCE** this love through us. (Ephesians 3:14-21)

Seriously guys.

We aren't a body or a *group* of believers—we are the spirit realm body of Christ. Folks. Jesus is the head of the church, and under the full authority of the head, we are His own body operating in this earth. He has placed all

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things under His feet (**THE CHURCH**)—for *us* to operate in the authority of His name. Yes. We are the body of Christ through which the loving fullness of Jesus both speaks and acts.

Jesus gave us a new command, to love others the same way He loved us. That means:

- Sacrifice
- Commitment
- Discipline
- Trusting obedience
- Refusal of self

And if we are to love as He did, we must **HEAL** others and speak into others as He did. That's the only way to love others to the fullness of Christ. This kingdom good can only come from the death of self.

You died.

We must act that way, fully alive to purpose and call.

Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

Ephesians 1:21-23; Colossians 2:9-10; Colossians 3:3;  
John 15:13

# Hang On!

I had a dream the other night that was incredibly vivid, and such an amazing picture of what God does for us right in the middle of our distress. Yes. We have an enemy who seeks to steal, kill, and destroy—yet, we serve a God of peace, strength, protection, and life.

In my dream, I was led by a dark, shadowy figured helicopter pilot into his old, rickety, rusted, two-seater, open air (no windows) helicopter, and he took off from the rooftop of a tall building. As he took off from the building, the helicopter stalled—and I heard the pilot say, “Uh oh.”

The pilot, knowing he was in trouble, jumped out of the front of the helicopter. (Correct, no windows.) Nope, the shadowy pilot didn’t care about my safety one bit and never told me to jump—yet, I jumped out too.

We both were hanging onto the cables and poles of street lights high above NYC. The pilot, easily worked his way back to safety—but I hung there, and looking down, it would have been a very long fall.

I waited. And waited. I was waiting for a fire truck (servants of The Lord) to come and rescue me. Yet. I didn’t see a fire truck coming. I knew it would be a long while. But. There was zero panic, and I had tons of

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strength in both my arms. In fact, there was no strain on my arms, hands, or wrists.

I could have hung there as long as I needed to wait. Yes.

Wait.

The Lord Himself stalled the plans of that helicopter pilot. The Lord caused that helicopter to fail, and He Himself rescued me when I didn't even know I was in trouble. Without me knowing, God delivered me from the plans of evil simply because I love Him.

“Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.” (Psalm 91:14-15 ESV)

Now here's the thing.

I still had to wait to see my **FULL** way out of the plans of the enemy. I was safe while I waited, but my waiting was **ACTIVE**.

Active?

Yes. I was safe while I held on. I could have for no good reason other than my own impatience let go of that pole. But I had no reason to let go because my arms never lacked strength. Why?

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“...but they who wait (*qavah*) for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40:31 ESV)

This Hebrew word *qavah*, is an active waiting—not a passive waiting. It’s not a sit-on-the-couch type of waiting; rather, it’s an action verb that implies eager, expectant, and participatory waiting. Yes. We wait in strength! We wait and get renewed! We abide (**STAND**) in the Father and all of our needs are met as we **PARTICIPATE** with God in our waiting.

Huh?

Yes. I was an active participant in my waiting. I had to choose to hold on. I had to choose **NOT** to let go. No matter how long the wait, I had to do my part and **STAND** with God. Or splat.

God loves you. He will deliver you from evil. While you eagerly wait in your circumstances, be sure to **GROW** and bless those right around you. Be a participant in your own healing. Abide or stand in God like bone. Refuse to let go of your God. Refuse to let go of what God has promised you.

Folks. Jesus knew the cross was coming. I can’t imagine what that waiting was like. Yet. Jesus was promised a kingdom and life for all those who believe in His name.

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For the joy set before Him, he hung on to the cross once  
He was there.

You can hang on, too.

# Believe Deeper

Don't believe harder, believe deeper.

Believe not with the rounded corners of your human mind, but instead within the deep recesses of your heart and DNA.

The deeper you believe, the deeper your impact will be on those “kingdom things” that weigh on the heart of the Father.

Why?

God's love surpasses all knowledge, and you have been filled with the **fullness** of God's sacrificial agape love.

You have been equipped for every good work with His written word, love, **LIVING** Spirit, and power.

“Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His \*power\* that is at work **within us...**” (Ephesians 3:20; emphasis mine)



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# Staying Clean

Goodness

Kindness

Self Control

Perseverance

Knowledge

Godliness

Mutual Affection

Love

All **\*\*diminish\*\*** when we forget we are **ALREADY** clean before Him.

Why?

The flesh-centered mind jumps to a constant barrage of negative thinking wrapped around lack of worth, and thoughts tied to “God doesn’t love me” and “God couldn’t use a person like me.” And of course, my favorite: “Am I really saved?”

We become rendered ineffective for the gospel, and stuck in a slop bucket of untruth.

This. This is why it’s so important to understand that we were made clean once! Yes. Long before we were ever born. We aren’t made clean with our tongues, we were made clean at the cross. Forever.

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Peter says, “But whoever does not have them {the above mentioned list of traits} is nearsighted and blind, forgetting that they have been cleansed from their past sins.” (2 Peter 1:9)

Saved. Unsaved. Righteous. Unrighteous. All sin. All people. For all time. On the cross. We are separated by belief, not by sin.

Yes. Sin is self destructive. Yes. Sin will destroy. Yes. Sin is an enemy tool to wipe out your present and future.

But. The only sin (missed mark) that counts in the eternal record keeping—is missing Jesus. He is **THE** mark. Miss Him, you miss everything!

Cats lick themselves to stay clean, sons and daughters are clean because of the cross. It’s not what we do or say to stay clean, it’s what Jesus already did.

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# Stubborn Faith

Stubborn pride. Bad.

Stubborn thinking. Bad.

Stubborn habits. Bad.

Stubborn relating. Bad.

Stubborn selfishness. Bad.

But. What happens when our natural stubbornness is squarely attached to our faith?

We walk with a “stubborn faith” that relentlessly moves our feet toward both purpose and promised land.

Believe what God has told you.

Believe what God has deposited in you.

Believe what God has shown you.

Despite odds and human sight.

Walk relentlessly in what you know to be true.

# Missed Destinations

Recently, I was texting like a wild man while walking around the airport in a super hurry. All I wanted to do was to use the restroom, and when I turned the corner of the lobby wall I thought to myself, “Man, this looks different.” Well, a few seconds later, several **WOMEN** were screaming at me. I was getting looks of death.

Yep. Found myself in the ladies bathroom! It’s hard to embarrass me, but man—I felt like I had crawled out of there.

I knew where I wanted to be, but I missed my destination. I knew where I needed to be, but was distracted and missed the obvious signs.

We can be in such a hurry to get our own way, to see some results, to gain popularity, to be loved, to belong, to have better, or to get out of the tough life circumstances we are in—that we miss the freeway off ramp to His way.

We end up in the wrong:

- relationships
- marriages
- career paths
- business deals
- workplaces

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- churches
- recreational groups
- friendship circles
- behaviors and self-care habits
- ministerial goals
- doctrinal belief sets

Because we weren't truly listening to our GPS (God's Positioning System) we end up in the wrong place. And, here's the thing—you will never find peace or rest in a place that you weren't called to. Yes. Some places are meant for someone else, and not you.

Think about it, those women were finding rest in the **RIGHT** rest-room! What was right for them, certainly wasn't right for me. Me. All I found was shame and condemnation. Now, yes I could have stayed there—but I'm pretty sure I'd have been arrested!

That's the thing, you will never feel comfortable or at true peace in a place you shouldn't be. His Spirit will constantly tug on you to keep moving your feet in faith to the right place. Your own heart will arrest you, and keep you from a lack of satisfaction.

What's more, a few minutes after I had walked out of the restroom—I saw paramedics rush to one of the gates. A man had collapsed as the flight was boarding, and several medics were tending to him.

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I didn't get in their way, or rush over and say, "Hey, I'm an ex-pastor." But, I did hover around the area and pray. I have no idea what happened to this man, but for some reason my prayer kept coming back to salvation. And my heart of hearts believes that what had taken him to the ground, did so from a place of grace and goodness so that he wouldn't perish or be condemned with the world.

As this man was being wheeled off by the medics, I looked up and saw this gentleman's flight boarding information. The sign said, "Newark departing at 3:00 PM."

Yes. New Ark 3:00 PM.

Jesus is our **NEW ARK**, and **JESUS** is the New Testament truth of Noah's ark. At 3:00 PM, Jesus gave up His spirit upon that tree **RIGHT ON TIME AS PROPHESED**, and in that single moment the veil that separated us from God was torn. Safety and life are available for all who choose to walk through that torn veil and open ark door.

Jesus **HIMSELF** said those who believe have "crossed from death to life and shall not be judged." (John 5:24)

Folks. Eternity is our **FINAL** destination, and due to our distractions or pride—metaphorically speaking, we must not get caught with our pants down in the wrong restroom!

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Once the door to the plane closed—no more people could board.

Once the door to the ark closed—there was no second chance.

No matter what Facebook says, once the door to our earthly lives closes—there is no second chance for hearts of stone to become hearts of flesh.

Don't stay long in the wrong type of resting place. For on the Lord's Day every knee shall bow, and every tongue will confess guilt or innocence that "in the Lord alone are deliverance and strength." (Isaiah 45:24)

Faux peace is no peace at all.

# Crucify!

Remember.

Many who cheered in praise, “Hosanna”—just a few hours later chanted, “Crucify!”

Truly.

- Learn the scriptures.
- Learn how to hear Him inside you.
- Learn how to stand up for what you believe when others want you to sit down.
- Don’t follow the crowd.
- Don’t follow emotions.
- Don’t follow fear.

Trust in God, **not** the crowd.

Follow Jesus.



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# Results Driven

We are a society that both runs on and demands results. Why? If you don't perform as promised...you will get fired or left out, you will feel like a loser, or you will just plain look silly.

In fact, we are usually in control of our own results. We can work harder, work smarter, acquire new skills, read "how to" books, get important help from friends or professionals, hire the right people, take out a bank loan, get on Shark Tank, focus our mind and energy, or work our tails off to make sure everything necessary gets done.

But. Prayer and healing don't work that way.

No lie. I am results driven with all I do. If you know me in real life, you know I'm compelled by love and I am intensely driven toward goals by faith. No, I'm not performing for God...I know who I am. But. I do invest so much energy into all I do, I want to see things happen. I want to see fruit from the soil that was diligently tilled.

Seeing people hurt, literally hurts me. I can't stand seeing people suffer. I feel their hurt.

But. Impatience gets in the way. Like frost on fields of wheat, impatience damages the growth of obedient outcome.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

This is something God is working on in me. Nope. Not everyone I pray for gets healed right there and then. This frustrates me, because I believe it's already been done at the cross. I've seen so much crazy healing that it's not even a question for me. I am always confident in my God, and I expect God to show up.

However.

My obedience to God is up to me. The fruit of my obedience is up to God.

Look, let's be real. I'm not the one doing the healing. I'm just a vessel. I can't heal others any better than I already do!

Yet. There is no greater act of trust, than obediently pouring your heart into God and His people—and leaving the results up to the One who is supplying the power to heal.

Here is the point.

Your faith and acts of service need not be driven by results. There is nothing more pleasing to God than us moving in obedience, and trusting Him with those precious acts of love.

## **Alan Caplin**

We get our joy from obedience, not from the results.  
Fixation on our results allows the enemy to chip away at  
the joy of faith and service.

Pray big. Be light. Be bold.

Heal the world with your heart, no matter what.

But. Give the results to God.

# Mangia!

I've eaten a lot in my life, but I don't remember each and every thing I've eaten. Yet I am today the sum of all I've consumed over the course of my life. Each meal—no matter how big or how nutritious—has sustained me in the moment. Each meal kept me until the next meal.

The same is true with the things of God.

You may not recall all you've read, been fed, been shown, or been told. But. We must keep eating. Every meal, takes us to the next.

When we stop hungering, we stop eating.

When we stop eating, we stop becoming.

When we stop becoming, we die and become road kill—a meal for vultures!

Flat out, we must learn how to cook for ourselves. We can't live on manna meant for others, we must dine on the manna God has for us!

Alan Caplin

# Life in Exile

You think you have it bad? Check this.

In 605 BC the Babylonians sacked the first Jewish temple and destroyed Jerusalem. 940,000 people associated with the temple were killed—priests, high officials, members of the Sanhedrin, maidens, and children. And several million more were killed inside and outside the city.

The common and poorest of people who survived were allowed to stay and work the fields. And about 10,000 Jewish elite were carted off as “hostages” to Babylon (Daniel being one of them).

It’s the equivalent of being at church one day and the entire place is sacked during worship, everyone is killed, the city burned down, your family is murdered, your home taken and given away to the poor, and then you are carted off to a foreign land.

While in Babylon, the Jewish people thought God had forgotten them and that they were to be miserable in their new land. Yep. Even the prophets were **WRONGLY** telling them to be ashamed and miserable.

Then, Jeremiah sends a letter to those exiled.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

In that letter, The Lord said they should find wives, marry, settle down, have kids, build homes, plant gardens, reap the benefits of their labor, increase in number and prosper.

“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.” (Jeremiah 29:11)

You may feel like an outsider.

You may feel like you don't belong.

You may feel like there is no end.

You may feel like there is great loss.

You may feel like your best days are behind you.

But God says bloom right where you are.

And bloom guilt free. Free of shame from past disasters.

70 years later, as promised, they went back home to Israel.

Yes. **GOD HAS PLANS FOR YOU!**

**GOD WILL DELIVER YOU!**

In the meantime.

Grow. Bloom. Multiply. Be a blessing!

Alan Caplin

# Destination

Ever wonder where Jesus is taking you? Ever want to just get out of the car and maybe begin hitchhiking back home?

Well, notice that when Jesus and the disciples crossed the lake, a violent storm came. (Matthew 8:23-34) Jesus wasn't worried. Yes, the disciples were horrified...but Jesus was calm. In fact, Jesus was fast asleep during the storm.

Jesus knew where He was going, He knew where He was taking His friends. He knew there was a demon possessed man on the other side of the lake. Jesus knew what storms big and small stood between point A and point B. Jesus knew that if His friends could retain their focus on Him and their path together in the storm, that they'd have the inner strength to cast out the demons in that man.

Yet, when they got there—they were so frazzled from the storm—Jesus cast the demon out on His own.

Jesus knows where He is taking you, and He isn't afraid. Storms come and storms go, yet through each storm we learn **WHO** we are in Him...and we increase in our sense of His vision for our lives.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

The path isn't meant to scare you, it's to strengthen you. Why? So that God may be glorified in you and through you. Yes, so that the kingdom may be advanced through **CHRIST IN YOU.**

You might be at point A today, but your point B is the point of success for the kingdom. Don't let fear shake His boldness out of you.



Alan Caplin

# The Gospel of Life

Woke up to a dream this AM (as my alarm sounded).

I was in an Asian grocery store, and I walked outside. There were people hiding behind large rocks who were looking to cause trouble.

I told them, “You may as well come out from behind there, the people inside know you are here.”

These troublemakers came out from behind their hiding places, and the owners of the store closed the shutters to the windows of the store—yet, the front door remained unlocked.

I walked right back inside.

There were people of **MANY, MANY** nations and of many backgrounds singing joyfully to The Lord.

It was beautiful. I never felt so much peace, hope, and joy in my life.

Then, I saw myself googling “**The Gospel of Life.**”

Folks, yes, trouble may be at your door...but **YOU** have joy.

You have His peace.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

You have His hand of protection.

You have His favor.

You have His hope.

You have His authority.

Why was the front door unlocked? The enemy isn't even **ALLOWED** inside!

It's not the gospel of fear.

It's not the gospel of rejection.

It's not the gospel of hurt.

It's not the gospel of suffering.

It's the gospel of life, peace, hope, and power.

Walk today knowing **WHO** you are, and that God is with you.

Alan Caplin

# Diesel Fuel: Fear

Put diesel fuel into a sports car that requires high octane unleaded—the finely tuned engine will seize and die. This renders the car powerless, motionless, and simply no longer able to do what was purposed.

So, too, with running the kingdom with fear. Fear based works is death. Faith based and spirit led doing...is life. The true beauty and power of the gospel runs on freedom.

- Free of fear
- Free of self
- Free of pride
- Free of judgment
- Free of religion
- Free of demand
- Free of shame

Free of threats of losing what been freely given to us without merit!

Remember. If you aren't free to sin, hate, or to make mistakes, you aren't really free to share love. To be love is a choice. If you aren't free to mess up, you aren't free at all.

Folks. We have been made alive at belief, we can choose to operate from a place of death (flesh) or from life (the

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

Spirit). God graciously and patiently gives us the power to do so.

What's in your engine?

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# No Shadow in His Light

Light doesn't cast shadows! In Him there is no darkness, and no deceit. Yet, those things **BLOCKING** our view of the light **WILL** cast a shadow in our lives.

Folks. Fear creates shadows. These shadows creep into the intimate parts of our lives that should be filled with joy and light.

Our level of fear will be inversely related to the amount of time we spend with God in prayer, study, praise, thankfulness, communion, acts of service, and direct fellowship.

As our intimacy with God increases, fear decreases.

Nope. We weren't given a spirit of fear, but notice that we must **FIRST** fan that same spirit into flame.

“For this reason I remind you to **\*fan\*** into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.” (2 Timothy 1:6-7)

Spend time with God. Know His goodness and His nature. Change your thinking, and renew your mind to see **ONLY** the light.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

Whoever dwells (remains) in the shelter of the Most High will **\*\*rest\*\*** (trust) in the shadow (Kavod: glory/light) of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

(Psalm 91:1-2, comments added)

Alan Caplin

# Obstacles

Dude is in jail. They want to kill him.

“Now I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that what has happened to me has actually served to advance the gospel.” (Philippians 1:12)

Paul is like...“No sweat, God has **ALREADY** planned this out for the advancement of the kingdom.”

We must stop looking at delays, accidents, trouble, hardship, sufferings, and hurt as obstacles—but rather, as opportunities.

A friend of mine once built a huge ministry while **FALSELY** sent to prison, and when it came time to be released. He refused! Why? He had kingdom work to do there!

Jesus went to the cross—yes, giant obstacle—but went obediently, because He saw the joy set before Him. Jesus knew what seemed like death would bring life and peace for many.

To bless people when you are in hardship. To be obedient to God even when you don't yet see fruit or victory...is the highest form of trust and praise.

Keep going.

# Your Orchard is Beautiful

Just pulled a two-month-old apple out of the fridge. It was still good!

It's interesting that in the right kind of conditions, some types of fruit can last months, and other types of fruit will last a few weeks at best.

Maybe. Just maybe. This is why our own prepared works in Christ are judged by Jesus at the end of time.

All fruit is good. All fruit is off **HIS** tree. All fruit is Spirit born.

Yet. Some fruit that falls softly from our limbs will move on and on and on—and last even an eternity. And some fruit off our own tree was wonderfully meant for the moment or season.

Bear fruit where and how you were planted.

- Bear fruit in tough terrain.
- Bear fruit through storms.
- Bear fruit in drought.
- Bear fruit in all seasons.
- Bear fruit as the wind takes you.



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Don't be jealous of another's orchard.

Allow the birds of the air to rest on your tired limbs.

Your orchard is beautiful, and has been tilled with the sweat of your own majestic journey.

# Jesus Changes Our Hearts, Not Our Names!

Remember. On the road to Damascus Jesus changed Paul's heart...**NOT** his name! You are still **YOU**...wrapped in His nature.

It was common for Jewish folk to have 2 names—1 Jewish and 1 Latin or Roman.

Luke says in Acts 13:9, “Then Saul, who was also called Paul...”

Paul was *\*always\** both Saul (Jewish) and Paul (Roman).

If anything after his conversion, most of Paul's ministry was done under his **OLD ROMAN WORLDLY NAME!**

Paul became like the world, to win the world.

So. Stop trying so hard to be perfect or to act changed.

Be you, and let Christ **IN** you do all the heavy lifting around you.

# Transformation Please

We can lick our wounds and allow our circumstances to deform our God-given image in Christ.

We can conform to the world in our circumstances and become like the pagans...refusing to see that **GOD IS GOOD** in all things.

Or. We can transform through our own circumstances and via the renewing of the mind into the very image God projected us to be.

- Trust is a choice.
- Change is a mindset.
- Fear is a tool of darkness.

We can either:

- Conform to the world
- Deform in our self-identity
- Transform to greater

Yes. I will take transformation please.

Into the very likeness of the Son.

No matter the cost.

# Rivers of Living Water

Rivers don't ever run dry.  
Rivers never stop flowing.  
Rivers run their own course.  
Rivers bring and foster life.

Rivers may seasonally narrow a bit or they may even swell and roar.

Yes.

Man even tries to reroute and dam up nature's roaring rivers.

Yet. No matter what religion of man has taught you...  
believer...

Rivers of life dwell in you, and you will run out the course God has purposefully given—not man's path of least resistance.

“Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” (John 7:38)

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# God Has a Better Way

Allow God to place special people into your life. The only way you can do that...is to be fully **OPEN** to letting people speak **INTO** you. In fact, I have found that it's often the most broken people who have the most helpful and powerful things to say straight **FROM** the Throne of God.

Drop pride, ego, self, and your resistance to hearing things you might not like...and yes, have the courage to seek council in the least obvious places.

Not everyone I pray for gets healed. Not everyone I pray for has immediate results or bells and whistles going off. At times, especially when I don't see immediate results with several cases in a row—I get frustrated and impatient—and frankly this leaves the door open to confusion and the theft of joy.

I sought wise council from someone I knew, who hears and literally “feels” God intimately. Yes, I sought council from someone that God has had me mentor lately. Yet, the kingdom runs two ways...allow yourself to receive back from those you pour into. Folks, the most broken containers of His Spirit truly leak out Jesus in ways you could never imagine.

The Holy Spirit spoke much wisdom through her.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

We chase faithfulness and obedience, not fruit. The visible results of our faithfulness are up to God, yet our obedience is up to **US**. Our faithfulness, obedience, and full on trust in Him are what pleases God the most. Not the results. Results are steeped in performance, yet obedience is rooted in our love.

In fact, to continue being obedient—**WITHOUT** seeing fruit—is the highest form of trust!

Folks, sometimes all darkness can do is chisel away at your joy from ministering and helping others, because your faith cannot be shaken. Chiseling away your joy, is often all satan can do to get you off course.

You might not see the immediate results of prayer, fasting, ministering, sharing the gospel, writing, studying, preaching, teaching, parenting, investing time in people, building that side business, marketing that book—or whatever God has you doing. But the results are up to God.

And usually what one person sows in faith, another person reaps. What one person plants in love, another harvests in joy.

The person you fervently pray salvation over today, may end up meeting Jesus at a tent revival. That person you spoke healing into might not receive manifestation of your prayer until someone else lays hands on her. The person who read your book about grace, might not

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understand the gospel in full until they hear a sermon series at another church. When you prayed over that person for healing today, maybe they aren't ready to be healed and will receive healing from another prayer of faith down the road. Maybe your prayer for healing shifted something inside them attitudinally—and that healing will manifest in a few months.

In fact, that person who rebukes you for being a heretic, might actually one day call and thank you for patiently loving them into the wholeness of Truth.

What if God is working on things in people that you didn't even know about or ask for?

We can't limit God to **OUR** expectations. Keep going. Persevere, for perseverance shapes our character, grows hope, builds spiritual maturity, and leads to a wonderful harvest!

What if God...has a **better** way!

# Uber Trust

Drove home today from my son's church, and my wife had her eyes closed the whole time. Which makes perfect sense given my driving, but I had a Jesus thought.

Despite what she sees with her eyes. She fully trusts me. If she didn't, by now she'd either **NOT** get in the car with me—or she'd volunteer to drive. Neither has ever happened.

Yes. We literally hand our lives over to people **WHENEVER** we let someone else drive us. We willingly surrender full authority and control over our path. We ride fully vulnerable giving our trust to the one in the driver's seat.

How many Ubers have you gotten into—and yet you don't even know the person! Yes, they might be in an okay mood and all—but how fast do they respond the other people on the road? How alert are they to what's coming **AT** us???!!!!

Ever been in a car with someone driving who is texting, talking on the phone, road raging, not feeling well, losing their eyesight and hearing, elderly, or is just highly distracted by life? Despite the terror, most times we don't even bother to correct them.

Yet, we are hesitant to trust God.



## **Alan Caplin**

The all seeing, all hearing, all loving and intervening  
One...there is no safer driver.

Uber Trust Him, and see the road clear ahead.

# Our Sabbath Rest

When I was a kid and went to temple, we went Friday night to honor the Sabbath and keep it holy (set apart). Some of my Jewish friends went on Saturday morning. In the same way, some Christians believe in setting apart the Sabbath rest for Saturday—and yet most others on Sunday.

In Exodus 20:8-11, The Lord commands His people to rest from their works—we labor for 6 days, and rest for 1. Yet, the people of Israel failed to enter any true physical or spiritual rest—and subsequently the people endured a long 40 year delay in gaining the Promised Land.

Persuading the heavily persecuted Jewish people “experimenting” with the idea of Jesus to stop running back in fear to the temple and the law—the author of Hebrews says that post-cross God hasn’t appointed a specific day of rest...but rather **TODAY!**

Hebrews 4:6-10 ESV (parenthetical added)

Since therefore it remains for some to enter it, and those who formerly received the good news failed to enter because of disobedience (unbelief), <sup>7</sup> again he appoints a certain day, “**Today**,” saying through David so long afterward, in the words already quoted,

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“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts.”

<sup>8</sup> For if Joshua had given them rest, God would not have spoken of another day later on. <sup>9</sup> So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, <sup>10</sup> for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his.

Jesus **IS** our rest, and no matter our storm—we enter His peace by belief. When we enter His rest by deep, heartfelt belief, we rest from our works...yes, even while working or “faithing” hard.

Remember, the book of Hebrews is written to Jewish “almost” believers in Christ who are being heavily persecuted by the angry Jewish elite. These “experimenting” Jews were beaten, flogged, raped, jailed, killed, and yes even sawed in half—7 days a week. They didn’t choose **WHICH** days of the week to be persecuted, and which days to rest.

Look, the Greek word for “rest” (*katapausis*) is a noun, not a verb. This rest isn’t an action or an activity...it’s a Person. We rest in Jesus and His perfect peace.

Why?

Jesus says...

“I tell you, something greater than the temple is here. <sup>7</sup> And if you had known what this means, ‘I desire mercy,

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

and not sacrifice,' you would not have condemned the guiltless. <sup>8</sup> For the Son of Man is lord of the Sabbath." (Matthew 12:6-8 ESV)

Jesus **IS** the Lord of The Sabbath. We don't set aside a day of the week, we set aside ourselves daily and simply trust that He is good. Folks, the day of the week isn't to be set aside as holy, we are! We don't trust in our own works, we trust in His finished works—no matter what our eyes see.

In the context of our **FULL** freedom in Christ and obeying the 613 laws, Paul says, "A little leaven leavens the whole lump" (Galatians 5:9). If we start to contractually legislate what, how, when, and why we do things—we miss **WHO** we are in the process. Our what, why, when, and how simply begin to permeate into the whole **WHO!**

A little bit of law, just a little bit of legal covenant, a little bit of contractual relationship building with God...takes unmerited favor and makes it based on both works and merit. As a co-heir and co-laborer, grace is already full supply. God can't love you any more or less than He already does!

Can we take off a day of the week and rest? Absolutely! It's healthy, and a very good practice. But, as part of the **PERFECT** and **COMPLETE** covenant cut between Father and Son—we truly believe unto rest 24/7 in a God who has our backs 24/7.

Alan Caplin

# Dashboard Buttons

It's funny how we awake to what is **ALREADY** true. So many people I know are realizing the powerful giftings that reside within them.

It's like this...

My son sells Volvos—he sold me a brand new car a year ago, yet I'm just **NOW** asking him what the buttons do on my dashboard. He lives in my **OWN** house! I could have asked him at any point since I got the car from him, but I am just **NOW** deciding to ask. Yet. These cool features in the vehicle didn't just now show up when I decided to ask... they've always been there!

The very second you believe from your heart, you are fused to heaven. You are in union, eternally wired, and **YOU** have **NOW** stepped into **FOREVER!** Your spirit and His Spirit are fused as **ONE**. You have access to all of heaven. You are a **NEW** creation. Not an upgraded version of an old creation, but rather, you are a brand new design!

You have the same power that raised Christ from the dead.

**YES**, you can speak in tongues!

**YES**, you can heal the sick!

**YES**, you can cast out demons!

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

**YES**, you can dream dreams!

**YES**, you can hear God!

**YES**, you can move in the prophetic!

**YES**, you can raise the dead!

**YES**, you can have visions!

You have been perfectly onboard equipped by the manufacturer for power in this earth...to advance the kingdom.

And, **YES** (this will cause waves) all of the above are **WITHIN** you...even **BEFORE** you are baptized in the Holy Spirit!

Your union **WITHIN** is for **YOU**, yet your baptism with the Holy Spirit **UPON** you...is for others.

Dare to ask God, "What does this button do?" And see your purpose appear.

Alan Caplin

# For You Died

“For you died” - Colossians 3:3

Dead people don't:

- Talk back or complain
- Rely on their own power
- Worry about offending
- Care what others think
- Choose their own way
- Get swayed by their emotions
- Compromise their beliefs
- Negotiate with evil

Dead people also...don't sin. There is just no need for it. Dead people realize they are alive only in Him, and sin has lost its grip on us.

The disciples were transformed from big time fraidy cats to bold and courageous kingdom shakers when they finally understood the cross. When they finally realized **WHO** they were, **WHO** they belonged to, and **WHO** they were purposed for...nothing was more important than spreading truth, hope, joy, goodness, and **HIM**.

And, this transformation came despite the cost of their very lives. True transformation in our walk comes from realizing that your time here isn't about you!

Nope, it's about the kingdom.

# Baptism from the Waters of Death

In the first century, cloth would be prepared for use by being dipped into bleach, and then dipped into a color dye. Creating an acceptable base layer to which the new pigmentation could adhere, the cloth was first cleansed and stripped of its old impurities. Once dipped into the new color, the cloth took on a new identity as either red, purple, green, etc.

Yes, this is what first century Christians understood as a baptism (or *baptízō* in the Greek). We are dipped as one entity, and come out fully prepared to be dipped again into our new, permanent color form—transformed as a new creation.

Paul writes...

Romans 6:3-4 (emphasis mine)

“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized **\*\*\*into\*\*\*** Christ Jesus were baptized **\*\*\*into\*\*\*** his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

Those who have been baptized (or immersed) **INTO** Christ Jesus, were also baptized (immersed) into His



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death. Yes. We were **\*\*\*first\*\*\*** immersed into His own death, and then immersed into the living Christ—made alive together in the here, now, and the forever (Colossians 2:13). Yes, you and I as His believers have died with Him at the cross, been hidden and tucked away forever **INSIDE** Jesus, **INSIDE** the Father...and wired to do His will (Colossians 3:3).

Like the first century cloth, our old selves have been neutralized by being immersed into death—and our new selves have been made alive by immersion into Jesus. Our flesh (our way) died at the cross, and with it our old ways of thinking, being, problem solving, relating, and communicating.

We have been freely given the mind, wisdom, and instruction of Christ, and yes—access to His very thoughts by His own Spirit (1 Corinthians 2). You and I have **\*\*\*RISEN\*\*\*** with Him out of the waters of death as a new creation, and are no longer guided in this world with our fleshly minds, lusts, and passions...but rather with a fused Spirit of both His and ours (Romans 8:14; Colossians 2:12-13).

The key here is to come **OUT** of the “baptism of belief,” identifying ourselves with the new creation. As a gorgeous purple dress, we must learn to stop fighting our own maker and demanding that we are a hideous swamp gas green! You are His child, co-heir to a kingdom, holy, eternal, sealed, fused with Him as One, righteous, and redeemed.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

The old you died, the new you lives in Christ.

Dipped first in death (waters of the earth), we don't demand...we rise and follow (out of the water and alive into Christ). He dwells in us, as we live with Him, His way, to co-labor and bear fruit (Romans 7:1-4).

Alan Caplin

# Dead People, Love, and the Cattle Squeeze

For most of the summer, I wrote about how we supernaturally died with Christ at the cross. Honestly, it's not the news we **WANT** to hear—but it's the good news that we **NEED** to hear, because it will set us free from the throngs and deceit of self. Look, knowing that you died and no longer belong to you in order to bear God's fruit— means God's grace is full supply.

There is no safer place than being dead to self, and being made alive forever tucked inside Christ, and tucked inside God.

“For you died, and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.” (Colossians 3:3)

Frankly. Dead people **Rest In Peace**. Alive in Christ (the Prince of Peace), we are entitled to that kind of Shalom peace. And dead people have **NO** legal charge from darkness. The old you is gone, and the new creation is here!

But. I had a mind blowing revelation today.

Where the Bible says that God's love compels, controls, or constrains us—that word in the Greek is *synechō*. This word *synechō* literally means to be pressed by physical

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

**HANDS** on every side to **COMPLETELY** hold one together, so that the one being pressed or held *cannot* fall to pieces.

“For the love of Christ compels (*synechō*) us, since we have reached this conclusion: If one died for all, then all died. And he died for all so that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for the one who died for them and was raised.” (2 Corinthians 5:14-15 CSB)

I think in pictures, so here is the cool part. This word *synechō* literally means “to force a ship into a narrow channel” or “a cattle squeeze, that pushing in on each side, forces the beast into a position where it cannot move so the farmer can administer medication.”

(Adapted from Blue Letter Bible)

As we walk out our path to the port, the literal hands of Christ lovingly force or compel us into a position of being **STILL!**

Once we are fully still (not “dying to self” which implies a *process*, but rather factually or fully dead to self), we can have our needs met in completion. That’s where God can tend to our wounds, apply balm, and speak to our heart. That’s where we can receive direction.

That place of stillness is where God fights our battles.

That place of stillness is where we can hear His voice.

## Alan Caplin

That place of stillness is where we are made most effective, and wired for good works.

This place of stillness and rest is where we become refreshed in His own presence.

Most of all, our very best works come from this place of peace, stillness, and rest. Once we know love from sitting in the presence of love, we can effectively **be love** to others.

Yes. His love **compels** us to a place of rest, stillness, and death to self or flesh—as His Spirit **leads** us to a place of works and kingdom co-ownership. Compelled to rest, and led to works!

“He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” Colossians 1:17

# Giving Thanks and Miracles

Jesus took the 5 loaves.

**THEN.**

Gave **THANKS!**

And many thousands were fed.

A thankful heart paves the way for the miraculous.

“Jesus then took the loaves, \*\*\*\***gave thanks**\*\*\*\* and distributed to those who were seated as much as they wanted. He did the same with the fish.” (John 6:11, emphasis mine)

Alan Caplin

# Look Ahead!

We can't plow a field while looking backward at the trials, failures, and issues of the past. Otherwise, when you get to the end, everything you did will be done did crooked.

Fear looks back, hope moves forward!

Jesus replied, "No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God." (Luke 9:62)

# Storms and Character

I don't get Facebook defriended when I post extreme things about law and grace.

But. I get defriended in droves when I suggest that God wants us to grow. That God desires more. That God desires healthy change within us.

And yes, God did away with the spiritual consequences of sin, but God isn't blind and He still sees us. Yes. All of ourselves. Even the parts of us that are over grown and need to be cut away.

We have been perfected in terms of sin, but not in terms of our "Christ like" character. Why else would Paul begin to suggest that suffering **PRODUCES** a heart shaped character that reflects all of heaven?

God loves us far too much to leave us how He found us. God has more for us, *IN* us.

Yes. Maybe, just maybe, some storms simply won't calm until **WE** are calm **IN** the storm.

Why?

- Because you fly **above** the storm.
- Because you have **authority** over the storm.
- Because the storm fears **CHRIST IN YOU**.



## Alan Caplin

- Because you see **deeper** than the storm.
- Because you know the storm brings **healthy change**.
- Because true growth only comes with **resistance**.

Yes. Identity revealed within our own circumstances and spiritual power realized will always be kingdom gained.

This walk isn't about us, it's about those we walk with.  
Always will be.

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

Hebrews 10:14; Romans 5:3

# I Did a Horrible Thing

So, I did a 100% horrible thing—and was a terrible steward of my own word.

My family and I flew back from NYC this weekend—and we sat in the same exact seats both there and back.

ROW 11

SEATS A, B, and C...

all EXIT seats.

Both ways—there and back—the flight attendant asked us if we'd take responsibility for opening the doors and leading people to safety in case of an emergency. Before she could proceed with the pre flight check...we all had to verbally agree by saying "yes".

So, we agreed.

But, I'm not sure any of us paid attention to the demonstration of how to open the door. I certainly didn't read the "how to" card in the pocket of the seat in front of me.

Speaking for myself...I didn't feel "called" to open the door. I didn't feel like I'd have to keep people safe. In other words, I didn't really think the plane was going to crash.

## Alan Caplin

So, no need for me to read the manual. **AND**, if the plane did crash—I'm sure someone else read their card and would show me how to open the door.

Yet, if I had taken my word seriously—I'd have asked the flight attendant some questions!

This seems a lot like Christianity to me.

Most of us don't read, embrace, or even study the written word until we are "pushed" to do so by trial, circumstance, or pain. Many of us don't seek, until we **NEED** answers!

I mean, if the plane were going down—I promise I'd have read that card!

And, worse yet—if the plane did actually crash—I'd have to rely on someone **ELSE'S** interpretation of what the card said. It would be purely a case of the blind leading the blind.

Here's the thing.

The moment you say "**YES**" to Jesus...the moment you confess with your heart that you believe...you **AGREE** to being an agent of His reconciliation. We literally become His representative who **LEADS** others to...safety!

God makes His **APPEAL** of **SALVATION** through us! We implore people to **\*\*\*BE\*\*\*** reconciled to God!

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

2 Corinthians 5:19b-20 (comments added)

“And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. We (all believers) are therefore Christ’s ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal (of salvation) through us. We implore you on Christ’s behalf: Be reconciled to God.”

How can we do this if we can’t stand on our own with the written word?

How can we do this if we rely **SOLEY** on the “opinions” of others who have read the Bible?

How can we avoid false doctrine when we don’t even have a base foundation to work with?

**YES**, ask people for help.

**YES**, ask people for their wisdom and council.

**YES**, ask people for clarity and perspective.

**BUT**, we have a responsibility to lead people into His truth...and we can only do that if we seek truth by putting in the time and effort to do so.

Yes. The very same way we agree to lead people to safety through a door on the airplane...is the same way we have agreed to lead people to safety in the arms of Christ.

**Alan Caplin**

Anyone who says differently is selling something—and they need not sit in an exit row.

# No Greater Love

Yep. I've done school traffic duty for 20 years.

Been cussed at and threatened. Been given the finger.  
Been told to go places. Even been chest bumped and run  
over (on purpose, twice).

But. You know what.

I'd die for their kids.

Yep. Despite their insults and lack of appreciation—I'd  
jump in front of a rogue speeding car to protect their  
kids...and I wouldn't even think twice about it.

That's agape love.  
That's perfect love.  
That's who dwells in you.

There is no greater love.

It's easy to say you love your family enough to die for  
them, but would you die for the child of another?

Despite the insults, that's what Jesus did to graft in the  
lost sons and daughters of pagan gods.

Yes. He's asking the same of us.

**Alan Caplin**

You don't belong to you anymore than the world belongs to you. And yes, be thankful...that you don't.

For we belong to the God of grace and unmerited full supply.

# Already, Not Yet

The answer to your prayer lives in the land between  
already and not yet.

Already paid for.

Already provided.

Already answered.

Already on the cross.

Already washed in His blood.

Already completed.

Already seen through the eyes of faith.

Already a testimony to His goodness.

Already giving glory to the Son.

Not yet seen with our physical eyes.

Hold on. Hold fast. Hold still.

Not yet isn't far away.



Alan Caplin

# Change Ahead

God doesn't always set us free from circumstances ... usually we are set free **IN** our circumstances. Yep, don't be too surprised if God changes **YOU** *before* your circumstance.

Why?

True freedom, authority, strength, and rest in Christ isn't restricted by our good or bad situations. Rather, our bloodbought freedom always will be restricted by our attitude about our circumstances.

Sons shine no matter the weather!

As Paul writes:

"I rejoiced greatly in the Lord that at last you renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you were concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. I know what it is to be in need, and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do all this through him who gives me strength." (Philippians 4:10-13)

## Path to Freedom

It's not pleasant saying it, but in the process of honoring and serving God—sometimes we end up in hard situations that through our obedience that only God Himself can get us out of.

Herod killed James and it pleased the Jewish leaders, so Peter too was arrested during the Passover feast. The intent of Herod was to place Peter under public trial and execution after the conclusion of the festival. In fact, escape for Peter was flat out impossible as 4 Roman squads of 4 soldiers each (16 total guards) were guarding Peter.

Chained between 2 Roman soldiers (with sentries guarding the prison door), Peter *slept*. He was literally able to find rest for his weary soul while chained to those about to execute him the next morning. That right there blows my mind. Death was imminent, yet Peter had peace!

Then. An angel of The Lord appeared in that cell, **WOKE UP** Peter, and tells him to “get up quickly.” Notice Peter had to first **GET UP** off the dirt floor, and **THEN** the thick chains fell off his hands. It's far less stressful for us to imagine that those chains fell, and then Peter stood up. But truth be told, our obedience breaks chains!

## Alan Caplin

The angel then tells Peter to dress himself and to put on his sandals—again—in faith and obedience, Peter needed to prepare to leave that cell!

Remember. This was the Passover. At the very first Passover meal in Egypt—the Israelites were commanded by God to eat with their sandals **ON**. They ate in faith ready to leave their bondage **BEHIND!**

As Peter followed the angel past the unaware guards, locked iron gates opened! A safe path suddenly appeared! Peter didn't lead Peter out of the cell, the angel led Peter out of the cell!

Folks. We don't lead ourselves to freedom, the Holy Spirit leads us. But. We must prepare in faith to leave the chaos and bondage of our current situation.

Stand up off the dirt floor.

- Put on your sandals.
- Visualize success.
- Listen to your guide.
- Take a step of faith.
- Put one foot in front of the other.

Peter's chains were broken, and **THEN** he had to be led out the gate. Folks. Your chains have **ALREADY** been broken, you are already free. Trust God for the impossible and to show you the *rest* of your path to freedom.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

Acts 12:6-11 ESV:

### *Peter Is Rescued*

Now when Herod was about to bring him out, on that very night, Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains, and sentries before the door were guarding the prison. <sup>7</sup> And behold, an angel of the Lord stood next to him, and a light shone in the cell. He struck Peter on the side and woke him, saying, "Get up quickly." And the chains fell off his hands. <sup>8</sup> And the angel said to him, "Dress yourself and put on your sandals." And he did so. And he said to him, "Wrap your cloak around you and follow me." <sup>9</sup> And he went out and followed him. He did not know that what was being done by the angel was real, but thought he was seeing a vision. <sup>10</sup> When they had passed the first and the second guard, they came to the iron gate leading into the city. It opened for them of its own accord, and they went out and went along one street, and immediately the angel left him. <sup>11</sup> When Peter came to himself, he said, "Now I am sure that the Lord has sent his angel and rescued me from the hand of Herod and from all that the Jewish people were expecting."

Alan Caplin

# Lack

Don't hold someone's "lack" against them.

Lack of wisdom.

Lack of generosity.

Lack of vision.

Lack of resources.

Lack of humility.

Lack of respect.

Lack of patience.

Lack of kindness.

Lack of responsibility.

Pray for them.

Teach them.

Extend your heart 70 X 7 times.

You are their resource and \*answer\* to their lack.

Yes.

Be Jesus to them.

# Trust

Here's the unhealthy pattern.

That's my.

That's my.

That's my.

No. That's His. His. His.

Apply accordingly to...

That's my sickness.

That's my problem.

That's my crisis.

That's my addiction.

That's my pain.

That's my "unheard" prayer.

That's my cross to carry.

That's my Achilles heel.

That's my bone to pick.

Nope. That's all His too.

Done. Paid.

All hope, answers, and needs made available through His body, the torn veil.

Ask.

## Alan Caplin

Believe.

Trust.

Trust even when everything around you blatantly screams out that your believing is foolish.

Why?

The foolish things are designed to shame the wise.

Color me foolish.

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

1 Corinthians 1:27

# Confusion

If evil can't outright destroy you, darkness will try to confuse you. Why? Confusion is a bedrock stepping stone to destruction.

- If you are confused, that is an enemy tactic.
- If you are hopeless, that is an enemy tactic.
- If scripture is being used against your peace, that too is an enemy tactic.

Light can see, and light always brings clarity.

Shut out negative voices in your ears and within your flesh—and hear your knower deep within.

“I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting him who called you in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel— not that there is another one, but there are some who trouble you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again: If anyone is preaching to you a gospel contrary to the one you received, let him be accursed.” (Galatians 1:6-9 ESV)

Be careful what teaching you allow into both your heart and mind.



Alan Caplin

# Stolen Identity

If you ever talk or counsel with someone going through job loss, career transition, or empty nesting—this loss of personal identity is extremely stressful. In many cases, the loss or lack of identity can be **MORE** stressful than having to replace the lost income from a job or time spent with children who have left the home.

Honestly, the main reason for our stress is simple to understand. In that moment of career or life change, we have lost our sense of unique purpose.

Much the same, we as a church body are suffering badly from **IDENTITY THEFT**.

We all know that the enemy comes to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10), but we minimize how much he has stolen our identity in Christ.

Many have fallen prey to allowing the cares and worries of the world (Matthew 13) to rob us from our identity as His child.

When we understand our proper identity in Christ...we now understand our purpose! Armed with life breathing purpose, we now have focus on our daily mission. When we come to understand that we are His children, a holy royal priesthood, and co-heirs to an eternal kingdom, we then understand that no matter what happens here in

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

the earth...our purpose is to advance the kingdom that we are one day to inherit.

Purpose placed in our earthly concerns can rust, fade, fall apart, and be easily stolen—but solid purpose firmly rooted in Christ—can never be ripped out from your hands.

It is **NOT** about what we do...it is all about **WHO** we are!

We have **ALL** been given the power and authority to push back darkness on behalf of eternity.

Hi, my name is Alan and I'm a child of the living God.

Alan Caplin

# Believe Deeper Redux

We don't faith harder, we believe **DEEPER!**

Believe deeply that **YOU** are loved.

Believe deeply that **YOU** are already free from sin.

Believe deeply that **YOU** have already been forgiven.

Believe deeply that **YOU** have already been chosen.

Believe deeply that **YOU** are already made whole.

Believe deeply that **YOU** walk in His authority.

Believe deeply that **YOU** hold His power within you.

Yes, out of the belly of your belief, **HE** will fuel your walk.

Yes, **HE** gives you what you need to keep moving.

Yes, **HE** is the durable battery keeping you going!

Yes, **HE** gives you the faith of **JESUS** who lives and dwells inside you.

Our belief fuels great faith. Faith is the living, breathing daily application of belief. Faith is belief in action, and the "walking out" part of our believing.

But, the best part is that faith is something that God **FREELY GIVES** you simply because you first believed!

Your faith isn't yours, it's **HIS!**

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:1-31

Alan Caplin

# The Past

Don't let "unfinished business" from the past steal fruit right off your tree.

Past hurts, failures, and rejection left to fester often becomes the devil's playground for anxiety, stress, anger, fear, hopelessness, depression, addiction, relationship issues, sickness in the body, and much negative and useless energy.

Stare the past right in the face.

Tell the past Who has written your future.

Leave the past at the foot of the cross.

And.

Live in the present moment.

Believe you are who He says you are.

Lean on Him, to carry what you can't on your own.

## Bi-Polar Believing

Several people have suggested that we have two natures: a sin nature and a divine nature. People suggest that the flesh constantly wrestles against the spirit—and we are essentially of two distinct parts: earth and heaven.

Yet, Ezekiel 36:26 says that upon belief, we are given a new heart and a **RIGHT** spirit (reborn of Holy Spirit). We are literally given **HIS** nature. The moment we believe we are a spirit-born new creation. Not half of a new creation, but a fully new creation.

Paul says, “From **NOW** on, therefore, we regard **NO** one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus **NO** longer. Therefore, if **ANYONE** is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” (2 Corinthians 5:16-17 ESV, emphasis added)

Paul says in Romans 8 that believers are **LIVING** in the realm of the spirit—not in the realm of the flesh. Yes. We as believers can choose to operate from a place of death (flesh) or we can operate from spirit or inner being (Ephesians 3:16), which brings both life and peace. Look, we can operate from our address in the earth or our address in heaven—I’d much rather operate from eternity. Folks. We govern our minds by the spirit, not the other way around.

## Alan Caplin

The old you died. The old you was crucified and buried with Christ. The new you is alive in Jesus and empowered by spirit. To operate from what's dead and crucified is a shame, but yes we are allowed to make that choice.

As we awaken more and more to our identify in Christ, and as we transform deeper and deeper into the Truth of our image in Christ—the less and less we must wrestle or war our flesh against spirit. Sanctification is a process, but it's simply a gradual and greater awakening or realization to what's **ALREADY** true.

Truth > Process

We died. Dead people don't sin and don't wrestle with God. We simply move with the wind to grow the kingdom.

Honestly. Having to deny self and suppress the flesh is **FLAT OUT** works, not the power of the spirit **AT** work **WITHIN** us. Also, to say we have 2 natures literally makes us double minded (of earth and heaven) right out of the gate on all things requiring faith.

How can someone stand at rest in faith when they don't believe they are **FULLY** equipped as spirit? How can someone be complete in their own faith when they think they must conquer flesh that's already been conquered?

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

How can someone stand in faith for things when they are bi-polar in their own believing?

James says, “But let him ask in faith, with no doubting, for the one who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the wind. For that person must not suppose that he will receive anything from the Lord; he is a doubleminded man, unstable in all his ways.” (James 1:6-8 ESV) Single minded faith is what God demands. In all things, we subject the mind to the Spirit.

And that is **ONLY** possible in the realm of the spirit.



Alan Caplin

# True Grace Sustains

True grace sustains and shelters during a storm, in order to grow the very one being sheltered. In other words, true grace often changes the person instead of the circumstance.

Despite rational thinking:

Abraham had to leave everything to go to a foreign land and be willing to offer his son Isaac.

Noah had to build the ark...despite massive ridicule.

David had to go after the mighty giant with 5 smooth stones.

Daniel had to face the well toothed lion.

The three boys had to encounter the fiery furnace.

After coming to his senses, Jonah still had to go to Nineveh.

Esther had to face a very powerful and scary king.

Despite having the power to prevent it, Jesus still had to go to the cross.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

After the crucifixion, the disciples had to leave the locked room and start their new ministry...even with the angry mob at their front door.

Despite pain, Paul had to get up and he went right back to preaching in the very town that had just killed him!

In these events, God had the power to prevent **EACH** of these circumstances from happening. Noah could have had an ark magically appear behind a tree, Goliath could have been swallowed by an earthquake, the lion could have had heart failure, the king could of had a scary dream and helped out Esther, so on and so forth.

Yet, each one of them displayed courage and faith...and directly changed the world around them.

It is impossible to please Him without a world-changing faith (Hebrews 11:6)—therefore He is going to provide and help us navigate those situations in which we are to have faith.

In our storms, His **GRACE** will provide us the strength, resources, and direction. Why? Because He loves us and desires us to be fruitful for the kingdom.

**YES.** We belong to Him, and to bear more fruit the tree must be pruned. In our struggles, we are given opportunities to take our eyes off ourselves and right onto Him.

## Alan Caplin

In our difficulties, we are able to see that He **CHOSE** us, **WHO** we are in Him, and the incomparably great power that **WE** have to impact, change, and encourage others around us.

# For Freedom

Bondage comes in many forms:

- Self
- World
- Works
- Performance
- Religion
- Pushing the gospel beyond Truth
- Wrongdoing
- Abuse
- Greed/Pride/Lust
- Faulty thinking
- Comparison
- Addictions
- Shame
- Mistakes
- Hurtful past

But.

Some like their prisons, and some barely recognize the cell they even dwell in.

The only way bound people can be set free, is if freedom is modeled for them by a free man.

## Alan Caplin

Many are slaves to that which they aren't even aware,  
and once awakened, prison doors come off the hinges. In  
fact, these doors were **NEVER** closed in the first place.

No matter, keep modeling.

No matter, keep teaching.

No matter, keep your integrity.

For freedom we have been set free. (Galatians 5:1)

# Obedience

When Abraham was told by God to circumcise **HIMSELF**...he did it immediately! When Abraham was told to offer his son Isaac, he had to walk 3 days with teenage Isaac to Mount Moriah.

Three days to think long and very hard about what he was asked to do by his God—and not a single lick of it made any sense. Abraham waited 25 years for Isaac to be born, and now his Isaac was the **ONLY** direct path to the other promises!

I'm certain Abraham had little idea of what was fully to happen, but it's clear in Genesis 22:5 that he knew that somehow they'd both be back: "He said to his servants, 'Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then **WE** will come back to you.'"

In the end, God's grace provided a ram and Abraham walked back from Mount Moriah sure of who he was in his Father and 100% fully confident in the goodness of his God.

Understanding the directives of God will never be a prerequisite for our obedience, and obedience will always be **BETTER** than sacrifice.

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:** Genesis 22:1-19; 1 Samuel 15:22

Alan Caplin

# Change and Old Wineskins

We can't pour new wine into old wine skins or the old wine skins will burst.

Why? The old skins are fully stretched out, and unable to flex and give with the chaotic nature of the chemical reaction in the new wine.

And. Until we identify primarily as a new spirit born creation, God simply can't pour out new "supernatural coolness" while we hold on to our old flesh led self.

Lest we burst!

Look. Change can be chaotic.

Change requires adaptation. Change can be stressful. Change requires much flexibility.

His change will **ALWAYS, ALWAYS, ALWAYS** be spirit led—but if we don't identify **FIRST** as "spirit" entwined with His own Spirit...we won't be able to flex with the change He is bringing.

## **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

Luke 5:36-39

# Here I Am

I clearly remember my last day of regular preaching in a brick and mortar building.

I remember driving to church that day praying, and I said out loud, “God, if this grace stuff is your Truth—I need you to show me that even in sin’s darkest hour that you will be right there and correct your kids.”

I walked into the door of the building and someone I know well told me about their private drug abuse history and that each time she fell into temptation she’d hear the voice of God saying, “You don’t need this. I’m right here. You have me.”

To **TRUST** is to believe deeply even when there is much evidence against such belief.

- I see much sin.
- I see pain as a result of sin.
- I see many righteous marred by sin.
- I see a world torn apart by sin.
- I see much faulty teaching that increases ungodliness.
- I see a society increasingly consumed with self.

Yet. I trust God with His own, and the perfect work and supply of the cross.



## Alan Caplin

I trust God for His voice to be **HEARD**.

I trust God to bring loving correction in His people and in the earth.

I trust God for a powerful move of His Spirit across this earth, along with signs and wonders.

I trust God to **USE** the healthy to bring freedom and healing to the sick.

Oh my Father. So. Who **WILL** obey? (John 14:23-24)

Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching.”

Simple. Clear.

Law, tradition, and threats of God sending suffering will not create obedient hearts—loving hearts are \*already\* obedient. We trust God with the freeing truth of His own completed work on the cross.

So, where does this message of Truth leave **ME** at?

“Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, ‘Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?’

“And I said, ‘Here am I. Send me!’” (Isaiah 6:8) Father use me, I will go for us.

# Jesus Dwells In Our Hearts (New Heart Redux)

I gave my heart to Jesus?? Jesus lives in my heart??

Technically, Jesus has given to me His **OWN** heart. In Christ, I am a new creation with the throngs of His very heart. I didn't give up me, no—I simply became a spiritborn creature of Christ. I am no longer the old flesh-driven version of me, I am the new, upgraded, spirit-governed version of me.

I have been infused with Christ Himself and given a personal identity (new nature) wrapped around both Him and His own goodness. Yes. We become who and/or what we seek after. Ezekiel 36:26.

Folks. Jesus doesn't **WALK AROUND** in my heart, His nature **DWELLS** in my heart.

Paul prays in Ephesians 3:16-17 (ESV):

“that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, *so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith*—that you, being rooted and grounded in love...”

## Alan Caplin

In the Greek “so that Christ may dwell in your heart” is a *metaphor*.

By faith and being rooted in **HIS** love, the very nature of Christ dwells inside us. We take on His character, and we take on His image. We love like Jesus. We sound like Jesus. We move in this earth with power and authority like Jesus!

I didn't give Jesus my heart, and He isn't walking around inside me...I have **HIS** heart, and *His* nature as my new nature!

# Stoning of <insert your name here>

Most people don't realize that Stephen was chosen by the disciples to "just" feed the widows. Acts 6:1-6

Why?

The disciples were so busy witnessing, healing, and growing the numbers of believers - they didn't have the time to handle complaints of widows not getting their daily meal distribution.

Yep. Stephen and 6 others were chosen to be the ancient version of "meals on wheels" and do something the disciples wisely **ADMITTED** they didn't have the time for.

But. Stephen didn't "just" feed the widows. He operated in great power!

"And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people."

Acts 6:8

In fact, he was so filled with wisdom, power, boldness, truth, zeal, and words from the Holy Spirit ... it got him killed. Yes. Stephen lived and died like the One he admired:

And falling to his knees he (Stephen) cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."  
And when he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts 7:60

## Alan Caplin

This man's ministerial assignment was to "just" feed the widows ... yet he was martyred. And His own death sent the **MULTITUDES** of believers fleeing out of Jerusalem and into the rest of the world.

Yes. Stephen's courage and death served to spread the gospel across the ancient world!

Folks. Be like Jesus no matter where you are assigned, take whatever flack you get, and turn the results over to God.

It doesn't matter how small you "think" your role is. God will take it, use it, and multiply it .... if you let Him.

# Flea Market Flip: Redemption

I admit that I love watching the show Flea Market Flip. They find old, beat up items and fix them up to resell later.

What's interesting is that they do **NOT RESTORE** these items to their original form and appearance.

No, they take what's beaten, broken, old, dead, buried, tarnished, seemingly useless, and forgotten ... and **REDEEM** or turn the item into something completely new and different.

This is a great example where we the believers get things wrong.

Too often we want God to **RESTORE**:

- What we had
- Who we were
- Who left us
- What died
- What was lost

When God wants to bring complete **REDEMPTION** and make something **NEW** out of you and from your past.

## Alan Caplin

God wants to **UPGRADE** and **REPURPOSE** what was lost, what was buried, what was forgotten.

Yes, God is 100% in the business of restoration. But, I do believe the heart of God is far **GREATER** than just to give you back what you once had - but more so to **RADICALLY** change both you and your life into something much different and more beautiful.

**YOU** are a **NEW** creation, and the life that you thought was gone, will be a **NEW** creation that glorifies the heart of God.

Stop focusing on the old, and walk out the new.

# The Baggage Handler

Seems to me that Jesus came for people with lots of emotional baggage—prostitutes, adulterers, cheats, the desperately ill.

Note, he never condemns them for their baggage—instead He offers to carry the baggage **for** them.

There is **NO** condemnation—**NONE, ZERO**—for those \*in\* Christ. Correction and discipline—yes!  
Condemnation—no!

If you are feeling condemned...it's **NOT** from Jesus.

We can't sing and shout God is good, **ALL** the time! And then in the next breath promise that He punishes His kids for their sin.

That just doesn't compute.

He took **MY** punishment on the cross, and I died with Him so I can bear fruit.

## **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

Isaiah 53; Colossians 3:3; Romans 7:4; Romans 8:1



Alan Caplin

# Just Because

God loves you just because.

No strings.

No conditions.

No long forms to fill out.

No term contracts.

No expiration date.

No bait and switch.

No point deduction for misspelling and grammar.

He simply loves you because of who **HE** is. He loved you first, and that love compels us toward Him and others.

**NO-THING** can **EVER** separate you from that love—not even your worst day, darkest fear, or deepest sin.

Remember, the thief on the cross who went to paradise that very same day—didn't do a darn thing except acknowledge from his heart that Jesus was King.

That thief...

Didn't tithe.

Didn't do great works.

Didn't go to church.

Didn't get baptized.

Didn't grow into maturity.

Didn't usher at church.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

Now. Those things listed above are **ALL** very important (don't get me wrong)—but your works don't save you.

Your heart belief in Jesus does!

Because He loves us, we can't help but love others and work from the Spirit.

Alan Caplin

# Endgame

So, what's the end game?

Freedom.

God wants us free.

Free of self.

Free of hurt.

Free of fear.

Free of anxiety.

Free of pain.

Free of sickness.

Free of comparison.

Free of others' opinions.

Free of anger.

Free of shame.

Free of guilt.

Free of the past.

Why?

So you can freely set others free.

Freedom doesn't come with a snap of the fingers—yet our freedom **ALREADY** came with the blood that was shed. We must awaken to what has already been purchased and provided.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

Freedom in this earth comes from a renewed mind, a transformed identity that has been wrapped around **I AM**, flat out **KNOWING** that you died a supernatural death at the cross to belong to another, **KNOWING** God is **GOOD** and that you are fully alive in the **SPIRIT** realm, and believing from your core that despite your flaws, bruises, and warts that God formed you in the womb to be a superhero to others.

Alan Caplin

# Your Position in Christ

Salvation

Righteousness

Holiness

Justification

Are positions, not conditions.

Each a freely given, **permanent** position in Christ—  
resulting in spiritual and earthly **FREEDOM**.

Conditions are based on your own goodness and/or  
badness; yet, our permanent positions are based on His  
goodness alone.

We can't earn what we already have.

# Faith vs. Trust

Remember, faith and trust aren't the same.

Faith is believing in what you **haven't** seen (yet).

Trust is believing despite having had evidence to prove otherwise.

Believing in something you haven't yet seen is often kind of easy. It's much harder to believe when everything around you screams otherwise.

It's easy to have faith Jesus is real, but is it still so easy to trust that Jesus is real **\*in\*** your circumstance?

Belief (Rest) = Faith + Trust

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

Alan Caplin

# Renewing the Mind

Dirty air filters collect dust, pollen, and pet hair. For our health, they must be changed out monthly.

The same holds true with our minds. Our minds collect the concerns of the world, worries of the day, and those sorrows that haven't yet healed.

We must **RENEW** our minds moment to moment, put on the mind of Christ, think like Jesus thinks, and focus kingdom over self-dom.

A cleaned out mind is much healthier for your spirit, soul, and body!

## **SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

Romans 12:1-2

# A Way Out of Depression

There is no shame in suffering from depression and there is no shame in getting counseling.

If your heart is heavy—and if you wane and sit weary from a lack of purpose—please, please share yourself with others.

Share you with people in need the very best you know how.

The more you help others, the more you **invest** in people... the more you pry open the jaws of the gator who has you gripped in a death spiral.

Why?

- Purpose appears.
- Hope appears.
- Perseverance appears.
- Perspective appears.
- Talent and skill appears.

The very **WHY** you exist appears!

The sky above appears to rip wide open and flood with light.



**Alan Caplin**

And we see ourselves more clearly in Christ—we  
actually begin to see ourselves as He sees us.

Like in an ice storm, steer into the skid.

# Get Out of the Way!

Folks, we are our own worst enemies and often remain in self-imposed prisons. If we could just let God be God, and get ourselves out of the way of ourselves.

Let me explain.

You are comprised of body, spirit, and soul.

Your spirit has been fused with His Spirit and sits **NOW** in heavenly realms as one spirit. You and He are one in identity!

Your soul (tethered to your own spirit) is the **YOU** part of you—your thoughts, emotions, feelings, and unique personality. Your soul (or your very essence) is the only eternal part of your physical body. Yes. With or without Christ, our soul is fully eternal—and will see either life or death beyond earth.

Your physical body sits here in the earth, is subject to the elements of earth, and from birth slowly fades. Your physical body isn't eternal, yet one day you will receive a glorified body.

Check this.

Your spirit is whole.

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Your spirit is complete.  
Your spirit is free.  
Your spirit is powerful.  
Your spirit is clean.  
Your spirit is forever.  
Your spirit is perfect.  
Your spirit is strong.  
Your spirit is able to see all.  
Your spirit is incorruptible by evil.  
Your spirit cannot be judged by God.  
Your spirit is unshackled from fear.  
Your spirit is immune to demonic power.  
Your spirit is anchored in the heavenlies.  
Your spirit is tethered to an incomparable power.  
Your spirit is uninhibited by physical laws of earth.

So. What gets in the way of identifying with our spirit view?

Our soul. The **YOU** part of you!

Our own way of doing things.  
Our stinkin' thinking.  
Our poor perceiving.  
Our faulty believing.  
Our old broken habits.  
Our unclean heart.  
Our free will wrapped around pride.  
Our refusal to seek truth.  
Our comfortability with being comfortable.  
Our acceptance of evil.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

Our misuse of free will.  
Our intolerance for change.

Made fully free by His **OWN** spirit, you and I died a supernatural death with Christ at the cross. For true freedom and the sweetest of fruit to manifest—our soul must yield to the ways of the Spirit.

Folks. We can only do that, if we truly trust God—no matter the circumstances. Your soul need not be so imprisoned here in this earth—for your soul is directly attached to your empowered spirit!

Pull over. Let God drive.

Alan Caplin

# Greater Than >

Bad things don't happen to teach us a lesson. Simply put.  
Bad things happen.

And when they do. Christ in us is revealed.

Greater strength.

Greater peace.

Greater wisdom.

Greater discernment.

Greater clarity.

Greater revelation.

Greater understanding.

Greater purpose.

Greater is in you.

All for greater kingdom impact.

Nothing is greater than knowing Christ our Lord, and Christ **IN** you is simply greater than anything you've ever lost, any sorrow you've had in this earth, OR any trial you've been through. Simply. Be greater than.

"For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God." (Romans 8:18-19 ESV)

# How Blessed I am

I've never seen Jesus in a dream.

I've never seen Jesus in a vision.

I've never seen Jesus in person. (My wife has.)

I've seen Jesus move in my heart.

I've seen Jesus move in my life.

I've seen Jesus move in my abilities.

I've seen Jesus move in my circumstances.

I've seen Jesus move in the lives of people I've taught, counseled, and connected myself with.

I've seen Jesus move in people I've prayed for.

Yet, I may not have touched the holes in His hands, but I have touched and experienced His very presence.

How blessed I am.

Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed." (John 20:29)

Alan Caplin

# Get Ready

Right before the Israelites were to be delivered from Pharaoh—there was the first Passover dinner. Each household offered a lamb—drained its blood—and then ate the flesh of the roasted animal.

But...

The Lord also commanded them **\*HOW\*** to eat the offering...

Exodus 12:11 ESV (emphasis mine):

“In this manner you shall eat it: with your **\*belt fastened\***, your **\*sandals on your feet\***, and your **\*staff in your hand\***. And you shall eat it in **\*haste\***. It is the Lord’s Passover.”

The Israelites had to eat the offering both **PREPARED** and **READY** to leave their bondage!! Yep. Belt fastened, sandals on, and staff in hand. They had to **BELIEVE** that they were about to be delivered and set free.

On this side of the cross, the body of Christ was broken for our healing (mental, physical, and emotional).

His strength. His faith. His hope. His peace. His provision. Until that day...

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

We clothe ourselves with Christ (Romans 13:14),  
persevere unto greater character (Romans 5:3) and co-  
labor with God (1 Corinthians 3:9)...

Yes.

We faith. We trust. We work.

Ready for deliverance from our Egypt.

(Adapted/expanded from the work and teaching of  
Robert Henderson.)



Alan Caplin

# Trick or Treat

I'm a big believer in "do what you believe is right—and people simply don't have to agree with each other."

Me. I have issues with pretty much all of the major cartoon-themed holidays—so I'm really not the best barometer here.

But.

On Halloween we knock on the homes of neighboring strangers asking to be tricked or treated.

We approach these homes wearing masks that hide our identity, and ask—literally asking—to be fooled (punished) or blessed.

All I know is that when I knock on the door of my Father's house—doors are opened, needs are met, masks melt away, and there is no deception in Him or His goodness.

In His presence human masks of

- Fear
- Shame
- Scorn
- Anger
- Pride

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

- Ego
- Self-Righteousness
- Bravado
- Power
- Bitterness

Are useless.

He sees you. All of you. He sees your heart and all of your yesterday, today, and tomorrow. Yes, He sees each and every fiber of you.

We are fully naked before Him.

Knock on the door of evil, there will be trouble and distress.

Knock on the door of goodness, there will be joy and blessing.

On Halloween the odds of getting something good are 50/50.

On any given day, the odds of getting something good standing in the presence of the Father will always be 100/100.

When we drop our masks, we finally find our true identity.

As Sons. Daughters.

## Alan Caplin

And that is the greatest treat.

“Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” (James 1:17)

# YOU!

Hey. If I can tell my Jewish family that Jesus is the long promised Messiah—it's easy telling gentiles:

Believer,

You are eternal.

You are forever.

You are holy.

You are righteous.

You are redeemed.

You are free.

You are fully filled.

You are a co heir.

You are a co laborer.

You are purposed.

You are loved.

You have a new nature.

You have a new identity.

You have all you need.

You have fresh hope.

You have fresh strength.

You have a future.

You have direct access.

No matter. Period.

**Alan Caplin**

Know who you are. And persevere in all things so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:**

James 1:4

# Faulty Belief Sets

As a societal whole—many of us hold negative, faulty belief sets not only about ourselves...but also about God.

From the things they have read or been told, or by what they've seen other people do...too many people believe these things about God:

He is angry with me.

He punishes me for my sin.

He holds my mistakes against me.

He doesn't love me like He loves you.

He doesn't hear my prayers.

He won't love me unless I do XYZ.

He won't forgive me unless I do XYZ.

He wouldn't take me back.

He would never forgive what I did.

And each of these ways of viewing God...are simply untrue. These ways of seeing our Creator just aren't consistent with the biblical truth of a loving, long suffering, gentle, unchanging God, who loved His creation enough to **STAY** on the cross.

We walk out that which we believe is true. Wrong believing makes for a very messy walk.

Alan Caplin

## Be Doughy

As a New Yorker—I’ve been in Texas for almost 30 years and I can declare one thing as fact. Texans have no idea what a good bagel is.

A month ago we found a new tiny bagel place—the owners are from the “twin pizza capitals” of Chicago and New York. My friend and I got to talk with them about how the proper, true bagel is chewy and doughy on the inside—but yet smooth and firm on the outside. The owner laughed, saying many of their local Texas customers complain that the bagel isn’t fresh and that something is wrong with it.

Because they don’t know the real thing, they have accepted the faux squishy supermarket bagel as the “right” bagel. This blows the mind of those who **KNOW** the real deal!

Now, many analogies can be drawn to both scripture and doctrine. Most people have sat for so very long under the bondage of law, they can’t understand the freeing truth of grace.

But this parallel can also be extended to our **EXPERIENCES** with God. Yes, we can know God, hear God, and understand the very things of God from scriptures alone...but so much gets lost in the translation without having intimate, personal experiences or encounters with God.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

**NO**, we don't interpret scripture based upon our experiences, but it's hard to fathom and apply into our lives the raw power of the scriptures without these dynamic and intimate experiences.

Paul knew God (or he thought he did) but then his eyes had to be opened to Truth with an **ENCOUNTER** on the road to Damascus. Paul and the rest of the world haven't been the same since.

The disciples knew Jesus intimately, but they didn't **UNDERSTAND** much of anything about the scriptures until they had a post resurrection encounter with Jesus behind a locked door. The angry Jewish elite wanted to crucify these 11 fearful men as well, but Luke 24:45 says in that experience, Jesus **HIMSELF** "opened their minds to understand the Scriptures." They left that room filled with power, purpose, strength, and clarity that shook the earth.

Encounters with God open our eyes, ears, hearts, and minds in ways that expound upon the scriptures. No, encounters don't drive interpretation—but these divine moments do drive us to higher understanding of scripture.

To experience God is to know God, and to know God is to experience God.



## Alan Caplin

Many have had a good bagel, but they have yet to experience the fullness of what bagels truly are. Some people know there is more and seek a true bagel, and yet others are content with the bagel they have. Some are afraid to even seek bagel nirvana, and yet others complain about the bagel that's right in their own hand. Either way, chewy bagels with a smooth, firm shell do exist.

And while people wait for their personal encounter of the Jesus kind, and the appearing of the original Bagel (yes, the Bible in Technicolor), **YOU** have been purposed and trained to be the encounter someone else needs.

Be holy. Be doughy. Be the encounter.

# Jesus Curses the Fig Tree

All talk, no action.

All bark, no bite.

All flash, no substance.

All leaf, no figs!

Yes. Jesus was walking back from the mountains to the city of Jerusalem and was hungry. It wasn't the right season for figs, but at that time of the year, these trees in the higher altitudes should have figs ready to eat. Jesus approached a single fig tree by the road, but He found nothing on it except big bushy leaves. No fruit.

Then he said to it, "May you never bear fruit again!"  
Immediately the tree withered.

The fig tree is a symbol of Israel, lots of promise and potential—but little fruit. Yep. Religious Israel was all leaf, and no figs!

It isn't about what we do for Jesus, it's about the attitude of the heart behind our actions. The law carved by the finger of God on stone tablets...has been permanently marked upon our new hearts as agape love for others. Works built on the 3 big bushy leaves of pride, power, and performance—will never be satisfying to the

## **Alan Caplin**

hungry. But, works led by spirit and born from a place of love—will feed the multitudes.

God chose you before time, to bear fruit—fruit that will last!

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

Matthew 21:18-19; 2 Corinthians 3:5-7; John 15:16;  
James 2:8; Ezekiel 36:26

# Perseverance

After Jesus was placed in the tomb, the 11 remaining disciples hid in a locked room from the angry Jewish elite. They thought with Jesus they were now going to overthrow Rome—instead Jesus was dead and they saw no hope.

All of a sudden Jesus shows up and breathes the Holy Spirit and fresh life into them. Yes. The very same life that God breathed into Adam.

Of course they weren't filled with the Spirit until Pentecost, but Jesus gave them peace and strength—more than enough to leave that room and face the angry mob.

Here's the point.

Don't be shocked if God changes you before the circumstance.

Jesus did not change the angry mob, instead He changed His friends who had some kingdom work to do.

In fact, I'm not sure the angry mobs and threat of persecution ever changed, as 10 of the 11 disciples died as martyrs (and they tried and failed to kill John in boiling oil).

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I'm not saying your circumstances won't ever change,  
that's ludicrous.

God wants you whole.  
God wants you healed.  
God wants you restored.  
God wants you to prosper.  
God wants you to succeed.  
God wants you out of danger.

But He also wants you to persevere.

Why?

Perseverance brings kingdom character and hope.

Perseverance brings maturity and makes sure we don't  
lack anything spiritually.

After we face trial and difficulty—God promises to  
restore us and to make us firm.

But while we wait, maybe God is waiting on us...

Old attitudes must die.  
Old mindsets must go.  
Old habits must yield.  
Old ways of self must bow.  
Old thinking patterns must cease.

Again. Why?

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

Freedom.

To be fully free of self and world, we must know from the inside out that we are free.

And that begins and ends in the spirit realm.

Yes. We must be complete and lack nothing.

The kingdom needs you.

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

Romans 5:3; James 1:4; 1 Peter 5:10

Alan Caplin

# Dear (insert your name)

Dear (insert your name),

You may not feel saved. But you are.

You may not feel loved. But you are.

You may not feel forgiven. But you are.

You may not feel worthy. But you are.

You may not feel filled. But you are.

You may not feel clean. But you are.

You may not feel whole. But you are.

You may not feel eternal. But you are.

You may not feel strong. But you are.

Stop looking for a feeling!

Look and hear deep inside you, for you are His temple,  
dwelling place, and source of joy.

# Emotions Lie

If you learn just one thing from me...ever.

Emotions do **\*\*NOT\*\*** = The Holy Spirit.

Emotions can be:

- chemical
- situational
- reactionary
- short sighted
- fear based
- and mostly generated by our own thinking

Listen to your knower deep within you. (Ephesians 3:16) Your spirit and His Spirit are fused forever and joined as One.

Emotions are products of flesh and bring death. The other is Spirit and brings life, hope, and peace.

Emotions are good...for there is simply **NO** free will without them. Imagine going to a wedding or funeral, or seeing the birth of your child and feeling nothing!  
Emotions are sheer \*proof\* that you do **HAVE** free will!

In fact. Like check engine lights in a car, emotions are also good because they are indicators or warnings to take a look under the hood. We must look at the root



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cause of negative emoting or bad believing, and bring those issues before “The Great Mechanic” to help us straighten out our thinking.

In reality, that’s all renewing the mind means. By the Spirit of God we take our crooked thoughts and horrid believing, and have God help us align ourselves with what is actually true!

Folks. We aren’t led by emoting and feeling, we are led by knowing.

Emotions lie.

The Spirit brings freedom and Truth.

# Pick Up a Few Smooth Stones

Yes. The Lord fights for us.

Yes. Our battle is the Lord's.

Yes. He wants us to be still and filled with His peace.

Yes. He wants us to rest in His arms.

Yes. He desires us to move our "tents" as He leads.

But. It doesn't mean that time to time He won't ask us to fearlessly pick up a few smooth stones and actively push against our giant.

1 Samuel 17:47-49 (emphasis mine)

As the Philistine moved closer to attack him, David **\*\*\*\*ran quickly toward the battle\*\*\*\*** line to meet him. Reaching into his bag and taking out a stone, he slung it and struck the Philistine on the forehead. The stone sank into his forehead, and he fell facedown on the ground.

Remember. Perfect love can only drive out fear...if we know that we are loved perfectly.

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Fear itself is often a lack of understanding the nature of perfect love. To *\*know\** that God loves us *\*perfectly\** is to also know deep within that God is good, that He works all things out for our good, and that He will see all His work in us to completion.

1 John 4:18 (emphasis mine)

“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is **\*\*\*\*\*not\*\*\*\*\*** made perfect in love.”

It comes down to this simple thought..

The Israelites were promised by God that *\*if\** they obeyed the law to the **PERFECT** full that they'd be the “head not the tail.” Always at the top, never at the bottom.

In the Old Testament, we know how that worked out. It didn't.

Post cross. Because of the obedience of One, you **\*ARE\*** the head—not the tail. You have already been given victory over your giant and that which has failed or been kept bound.

No matter what you've done.

No matter what's happened.

No matter what's been done to you.

No matter what fear has gripped you.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

Shake off the fear. Repent, come home (yes, simply change your mind) and **FEARLESSLY** pick up a few smooth stones to **PUSH** against the darkness.

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

Deuteronomy 28:13; Luke 15:11-32

Alan Caplin

# The Heart

*Where is the veil for the unbeliever?*

The **heart**. 2 Corinthians 3:15

*Where is the eternal seal for the believer?*

The **heart**. 2 Corinthians 1:21-22

*Where do we become justified or saved?*

The **heart**. Romans 10:10

*Where does God look upon a man?*

The **heart**. 1 Samuel 16:7

*Where does God's nature dwell?*

The **heart** (by faith). Ephesians 3:17

*Where does the seed (word) fall upon?*

The **heart**. Matthew 13:13-23

*Where does the hundred fold crop come from?*

The **heart**. Matthew 13:13-23

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

*Where do our works flow from?*

The **heart**. Proverbs 4:23 *Where is our treasure?*

The **heart**. Matthew 6:21

*Where do we become distant from God?*

The **heart**. Matthew 15:8

*Where are we circumcised post cross?*

The **heart**. Romans 2:29

*Where does a man become defiled?*

The **heart**. Matthew 15:18

*Where do we put our trust in God?*

The **heart**. Proverbs 3:5-6

*Where do we entertain evil THOUGHTS?*

The **heart**. Matthew 9:4

*Where are we made stubborn?*

The **heart**. Matthew 13:15; Mark 6:52

*Where do we do most of our thinking?*

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The **heart**. Mark 2:8

*Where do we store our dreams, plans, and life goals?*

The **heart**. Proverbs 19:21

*Where must we guard?*

The **heart** (and mind). Philippians 4:7

*Where is our identity in Christ and “God-fidence” stored?*

The **heart**. Proverbs 23:7

*Where do we do our CONFESSING or AGREEING?*

The **heart**. Romans 10:9-10

Here is the thrust of the point...

The veil covered the face of Moses because they were terrified of the presence of God. Moses would spend tons of time with God, and literally glow—and it scared the Israelites senseless! The same symbolic veil covers the hearts of unbelievers, because they are terrified of the presence of God.

They see heart-shaped believers who spend time in the presence of God, yes people who radiate God’s glory—and some folks are afraid.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

### **Afraid...**

They can't be loved by God.

They aren't worth being loved by God.

They won't **HEAR** from God.

They will have to give something up.

They will have to forgive someone.

They will have to change.

They will have to face embarrassment.

They will have to give up their hurts.

They will have to finally stand up for something.

They will fail to meet a (false) standard of righteousness.

They will have to look at themselves and wounds.

They will no longer be able to **blame** others.

They will have to give up things of self that they enjoy.

They will have to be taken out of their own sense of "control" and comfort zone.



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They will have to rely on something they can't see!

They will have to be accountable for the thoughts of their own heart.

Folks. The veil is a spiritual defense mechanism to guard the heart from truth. Yet. Truth is the very thing that will set you free. We can either transform to Christ or conform to the world. We either confess (agree) with Jesus, or we agree with flesh and the world. We choose. Daily.

Sin has been dealt with once, for all time. In terms of **SIN**, we are forever clean. But God is constantly working on our **UNBELIEVING HEARTS**...for that is where we are born and wired to operate from as believers.

**YES**. He has given us a **NEW** heart, **HIS** heart—we have a **NEW** nature. Sin doesn't stand between us and God, **WE OURSELVES REBEL** within our heart and miss many blessings! (Hebrews 9:26-28; Ezekiel 36:26-27; Ephesians 4:17-32)

We are clean from sin, but an unbelieving heart full of self brings accusation from darkness at the throne (yes in the case of Job, Satan was **SUMMONED** to heaven).

For our lips profess one thing, but our heart and actions profess another. Without a changed, pure heart and a renewed mind...some physical healing just won't stick.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

Without transformation of the heart and mind (the soul) into an image like that of Jesus, demonic issues will soon return.

Why?

For what originally let demonic in ***through*** the soul realm (heart, mind, will, emotions), still hasn't been remedied!

We can kick out demonic principalities all day long, but if we don't first kick out **OURSELVES from OURSELVES** ... we are just spinning our tires.

As the heart is shaped, so too is the path of the man.

Matthew 5:8

"Blessed are the pure in **heart**, for they will see God."

Alan Caplin

# Break the Barrier

The only barrier to God is you.

Sin has been dealt with. Put away forever. No longer a barrier to His presence.

Yet.

Fear. Doubt. Shame. Self. Pride. Lies of man. Worth. Fear of criticism. Desire for things of the world.

Yes. Unbelief.

All clutter the new heart you've been given.

Jesus is constantly trying to remove the clutter of our heart...the stuff that we've put there or allowed there.

Break the barrier.

Be rooted in Christ, stay attached to the vine...and see your heart burst with peace, purpose, and joy.

## **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

Hebrews 9:26-28; Ezekiel 36:26

# Magic Genie

Jesus isn't a magic genie where if you rub the lamp hard enough, you get to make a "wish" to be healed.

Nope. Jesus has already paid for all sickness and disease...all of it. Yes. 100%. It's already done. It sits in the unseen realm as fully complete—we pull healing into the seen realm by active, expectant, and participatory faith.

Many times, healing tarries because Jesus needs **US** to partner into that healing with our mature tongue opening in declaration, agreement, and belief.

Yes. We must vehemently enforce what's already been legally won.

If nobody enforces handicapped parking spots (no matter what the law has set aside as both prepared and true) people can park there all day long with no blue placard.

Sickness does the exact same.

You have been set aside and legally declared off limits to sickness. Now. Enforce it with your tongue. (Isaiah 54:17)

The endgame, will always be maturity.

## Alan Caplin

Why?

Because we have been put here in the earth for the growth of kingdom and the benefit of others. We can't bless others as He desires...seated in immaturity.

Rest. Trust. Declare. Partner.

## My Santa Rant

So, over the years, I've kept my views on Santa Claus mostly quiet with some veiled but sharp commentary. However, in the year of 2020 perfect vision, I'm going to be a bit more direct.

As a Jew, I am immensely grateful for Jesus. As a Jew, it's a miracle that I've even come to accept that which was already mine. For I once was lost, but now I am found.

Yet. Most of my Jewish peeps can't and won't receive Jesus due to fear of being expelled from their families.

As a Jew, who is now a son, I often sit perplexed at how American Christians view Jesus. It simply amazes me how thankless (yes, check that this week on turkey day) many are toward the One I had risked everything to accept.

For what the Jewish people have openly rejected from pride, fear, stubbornness, and full on blindness...such blessing has come to the gentiles. Such power. Such hope. Such purpose. Even despite the vast theological differences, what an inheritance the gentiles have...yes, within them!

But. For many, Jesus is nothing more than a cartoon. In many, I see a reverence really no greater than that for Santa coming down the chimney to chow down on milk

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and cookies. For many “believers” Jesus is more myth than reality.

Through Santa we teach our kids that:

- If you are good, you get good things from the one who knows all.
- If you are naughty, you get lumps of coal from the one who knows all.
- If you behave, you will get gifts once a year from the one who knows all.
- If you misbehave, you have to wait a full year for redemption from the one who knows all.

Really. Santa **IS** behavior modification. I’ve seen teachers even threaten kids they will call Santa. I’m certain parents do the same.

In fact. Does it bother anyone, we lie to kids about Santa (for our parental enjoyment) and one day our kids are crushed as they **DO** find out we were lying to them?

Santa may deliver gifts once a year, but Jesus saves, heals, delivers, gifts us, and grants us access to the keys of the kingdom 24/7 year round. And no matter the personal stupid that I’ve done, I can still operate in His love and giftings.

We are literally training kids that they are only worth something to God if they are good. We teach them that

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the love Santa has for us is conditional to 1) believing enough and 2) how good I am.

I'm good, I get good things.

I'm bad, I get coal.

No wonder most American kids grow up having no clue about their identity in Christ. Most have no idea that the gospel has nothing to do with our goodness but everything to do with His goodness!

How about, Jesus loved me first. And. No matter what I do, I am both loved and approved. Yes, that love itself will change me, flow through me, challenge me, shape my behavior, and become my guiding light. His love for me and His Spirit within me **IS** my behavior modification plan!

Between Western pulpits that preach self help and behavior modification, to uninformed parents who reinforce good behavior for heavenly acceptance - no wonder most have little true understanding of the gospel.

Traditions are great. I'm Jewish, I know this.

But traditions aren't great at the expense of truth.

I don't mind Santa. I mind that Santa has more of a hold on the hearts of children than Jesus does.



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We have it all backwards!

Look around you. The times are quickly changing, and as the **EMPOWERED** spiritual body of Christ, our focus on kingdom must change. And. That change is being demanded from us.

The societal issues we face Santa can't remedy. Only Jesus and His church can.

# The Great Exchange

At the point of conviction from the heart, the sons and daughters of God make an incredible exchange.

Most earthly exchanges are typically an **EQUAL** valued trade. Yet, in our clear favor, the kingdom is based on a 100% **LOPSIDED** trade.

We exchange our way for His way.

We exchange our nature for His nature.

We exchange our sin for His righteousness.

We exchange our pride for His humility.

We exchange our flesh for His Spirit.

We exchange our needs for His wants.

We exchange our old self for our new self in Him.

We exchange our old habits for His habits.

We exchange our yoke of law for His yoke of peace.

We exchange our flesh for His Spirit.

We exchange our fear for His authority over fear.

We exchange our rags for His riches.

We exchange our arrogance for His holy confidence.

We exchange our death for His life. Here. Now.

We exchange our sorrows for His purpose.

We exchange our desire for His desire.

We exchange our heart for His heart.

We exchange our old identity for His identity.

We exchange our self reliance for reliance on Him.

We exchange our ability for His ability.

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**Most of all:**

**We exchange our life for the life He has for us.**

All of creation waits on you to make the exchange...and to shake loose what darkness has stolen from all mankind.

Yes. Be revealed.

“For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed.” (Romans 8:19)

# God's Building

**YOU** are God's place of victory.

**YOU** are God's place of hope.

**YOU** are God's place of service.

**YOU** are God's place of spoken truth.

**YOU** are God's place of healing.

**YOU** are God's place of testimony.

**YOU** are God's place of refuge.

**YOU** are God's place of rest and peace.

**YOU** are God's place of His very best work!

For we are co-workers in God's service; **\*\*\*YOU\*\*\*** are  
God's field, God's **building**.

(1 Corinthians 3:9, emphasis mine)

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# By Faith

We often think things are perfect polar opposites—yet they really exist on a sliding continuum.

Cold is the absence of heat.

Dark is the absence of light.

Death is the absence of life (think about that).

\*And faith is the absence of fear.\*

Not opposites. All on a continuum.

Here's the point.

You *can* be filled with faith, and still deal with brushing aside fear and worry. Just because one has to renew their mind to push back anxiety, doesn't mean they lack faith!!!!

Yet. Everything that does **EXIST**—was once sitting in the unseen realm. God spoke (Genesis 1:3), and then there it was! Houses, cars, people, mountains, lakes, stars, the sun and moon, even your mother in law...all once were in the unseen realm. It was spoken and **FAITHED INTO** the seen realm.

Faith, by definition, is “the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.” (Hebrews 11:1 ESV)

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As co-creators with God, by **FAITH** we speak what we hope for **INTO** the seen realm.

Faith to heal.

Faith to believe.

Faith to stand.

Faith to be still.

Faith to move mountains.

Faith to hear.

Faith to see.

Faith to obey.

Faith to wait.

Faith to understand.

Faith to impact others.

Faith to inherit the kingdom.

Faith to try new things.

Faith to restrain.

Faith to not lose your mind.

Faith to move on.

Faith to do what is right.

Faith to bless.

Faith to ignore external influence.

Faith to believe the written word.

All received.

Not cultivated. Not fabricated. Not self taught.

All free. All available. All yours.

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Truly. Much like riding a thrilling, vomit inducing theme park ride—life can be at times a bit scary. But when **FAITH** is **ACTIVELY** applied, there should be some level of excitement mixed in there too!

## Back in the Day

When bad things would happen to good people, I remember telling them, “It rains on the just and unjust.” Meaning, bad things happen to both good people and bad people.

**BUT**...I misused, abused, and chopped scripture to get there.

Looking closely at Matthew 5:43-48, it’s about being **\*\*\*GOOD\*\*\*** to those who harm you.

Yes. Love for our enemies.

In the proper context, both sun *\*and\** rain are necessary for survival. Especially when we remember that this verse was spoken to mostly farmers!

Sun. Good.

Rain. Good.

“You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. “He causes his sun **\*\*(GOOD)\*\*** to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain **\*\*(GOOD)\*\*** on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if



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you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that?"

(Matthew 5:43-47, comments added)

The Father expects us to shower loving sun and healing rain upon those who hurt and slander us.

God is **GOOD**, and His **GOODNESS** flows through us!

# God is Not in Full Control

There's lots of dangerous doctrine. Most of which makes people feel condemned, afraid, worthless, bitter, helpless, or even trapped.

But there is no worse teaching than “selling” the idea that God is in 100% control.

This breeds 2 types of identities:

1. **VICTIM:**

When bad things happen – God allowed it. How dare God let this happen to me. I'm furious at Him. I've been so faithful and this is the thanks I get.

This God is **PARTIAL**, and plays favorites. This God chooses which sickness or despair to accidentally or whimsically “place” upon His kids. Cancer for Charlie, but health for Billy! This is not a God of righteousness, this is injustice at its worst.

2. **MARTYR:**

When bad things happen – oh well, this is God’s will for me. I’m here to suffer for God, and people will see Jesus in me. My faith hasn’t been that strong lately, and this must be to teach me a lesson—I need to be stronger.

This God uses pain to teach lessons, because His perfect love isn’t good enough for learning! This God is a bully, and uses fear to force people to submit and obey. This God is random and arbitrary, and cannot be trusted.

In both scenarios, if God were human—the local child enforcement agency would come take the kids away!

First. Sovereign Lord biblically means Lord, Lord. God is in charge of all, but not fully in control.

Why?

There is a god in this earth.

There are demonic principalities.

There is free will.

There are legal challenges at His throne by demonic.

There are fallen world issues, like our aging bodies.

Check this. (FW) means free will.

Jimmy is a believer (FW), but is constantly angry and bitter (FW) because his mom abandoned (FW) him when he was 5. The anger and bitterness (FW) is

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causing his limbic system to be chemically out of whack (FW)—which has caused cancer (FW) to form in his body.

Because Jimmy has professed faith (FW) in Jesus—but holds such anger, resentment, bitterness, and unforgiveness (FW) in his heart—Satan has charged him with unbelief (FW) at the throne. These legal charges (FW), have resulted in demonic entities entering his body causing fibromyalgia and brain fog (FW) thereby making things real tough at his job.

Because his body is aging normally, he can't see as well— but refuses (FW) to wear glasses. Jimmy can't see an order placed at the warehouse he works in, so Satan pokes at his anger and frustration (FW), causing Jimmy to lash out (FW) at his boss and get fired. Jimmy storms off from work (FW) and slams (FW) the car door—on his hand. In much pain, Jimmy decides to go to a bar and drink a few beers to feel better (FW). On the way home, driving drunk (FW)— he kills a 5 year old in another vehicle.

How much of this is God responsible for???

Zero.

How much could God have prevented???

Zero.

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God will never, ever touch our free will—because love is predicated on free will. If we aren't free to hate, we aren't free to love. Love is a choice.

Look. We are in far more control than most people give us credit.

Honestly. Not all things are good, but God is good in all things. And all things will work out for our good, spiritually so that we can be mature and complete lacking nothing.

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

James 1:4, Romans 8:28

# Anxiety and Panic Attacks

My take on anxiety and panic attacks:

Our mind has many locked doors—and behind each individual door is something we are afraid of. We keep these doors tightly locked—because the stuff behind them are things that either sit outside our sphere of control, or are rooted in deep sorrow or insecurity...or it just flat out hurts too much to look behind that door.

Yet.

- Our body **KNOWS** these doors exist.
- Our body **KNOWS** what's behind these doors.
- Our body **KNOWS** we don't want to deal with the big stuff behind these doors.

Then. Something external to you happens to trigger a single door to become slightly ajar. And even if we don't fixate on that door in our mind, our body is reminded of that door and all the other doors!

Our body panics, even when our mind is still. Now. To bring peace, we do **NOT** open all the doors at once to deal with stuff. That would bring disaster.

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But. Open one door at a time. And give **ALL** the scary contents behind that door to Jesus. Trust Him with one door at a time.

At some point. It gets easier and easier as we see that we really had **nothing** to fear at all.

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”

(Proverbs 3:5-6)

# Push on Through

Thousands were fed with little meat and bread.

David slayed a giant with his heart and a few stones.

Gideon defeated a massive army with just 300 men.

Samson wiped out 1,000 soldiers with a donkey's jawbone.

Elijah had nothing and was fed by ravens.

A few disciples spread a message around the globe.

The widow at Zarephath was sustained with an endless supply of food and water during a severe drought.

\*\*\*Don't look at what you don't have, look at what you **DO** have.\*\*\*

**Push on through!**



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# My Reward

Here are the things I think about...

God's works have been done before time began, it's been finished from before it ever started.

Yet, when our bodies fade away and we leave this earth to go to the "temporary" heaven (the current heaven will become a new, eternal heaven)...we don't **YET** receive our rewards from the works done while in the body. That happens on the **LAST** day.

I got to thinking about that.

Our works keep on working **AFTER** we are gone from the earth.

- The books we write.
- The hearts we shape.
- The songs we write.
- The families we save.
- The hope we birth.
- The destruction we avert.
- The communities we build.
- The lives we speak and breathe into.

It's all constantly growing exponentially after we are gone.

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God can't reward you for what hasn't been yet realized in the full here in the natural.

My very great reward is Jesus, and I want in the earth **ALL** that **HE** paid for!

Genesis 15:1 After this, the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision: "Do not be afraid, Abram. I am your shield, your very great reward."

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# YOU ARE

YOU are God's place of rest and peace.

YOU are His place of healing.

YOU are His place of worship.

YOU are His place of power.

YOU are His place of deliverance.

YOU are God's voice of hope.

YOU are God's ambassador.

YOU are His temple and church.

YOU are His inspiration to the hurting.

YOU are His light in the darkness.

YOU are His offering upon the altar.

YOU are His messenger.

YOU are His royal priesthood.

YOU are His holy nation.

YOU are His greatest joy.

Never confuse brick and mortar, with purpose and call.

1 Corinthians 3:9 "For we are co-workers in God's service; you are God's field, God's building."

## Love Rant

My wife loves my son. So very much.

When Max was younger, my wife **\*\*worried\*\*** about him being able to tie his shoes on his own at school. So, she got him Velcro sneakers.

Seemed like a good idea.

Well, the kid couldn't tie his shoes on his own until 5th grade! Why? That was when he outgrew all the Velcro shoes at the mall.

Let's just say Max was embarrassed for a few weeks in 5th grade trying to get his shoes tied.

At some point, love **\*\*\*ceases\*\*\*** to be love. Yes, what we humans see as love—sometimes is really just fear, pride, or selfishness wrapped in a layer of love.

Good parents expect from their children.

Good parents tell their kids no at times.

Good parents teach and model discipline.

Good parents allow their kids to have moments of frustration.

Good parents set boundaries and limits.

Good parents are able to listen more than they speak.

Good parents allow safe, non-harmful, natural consequences as a learning and growing tool.

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Much the same.

God's love doesn't enable our poor behavior.

God's love doesn't excuse us from our call.

God's love doesn't mock people.

God's love doesn't exalt ourselves over others.

God's love doesn't place self over kingdom.

God's love doesn't use the word "love" as a weapon.

God's love does correct.

God's love does discipline.

God's love does rebuke.

God's love does endure.

God's love does discern.

God's love does protect.

God's love does find a way.

God's love does hurt and cry with us.

God's love does equip.

God's love does provide.

God's love does say no and not yet.

God's love does honor promises with yes and amen.

Perfect love is able to teach perfect independence.

Perfect love is able to judge and remain perfect.

Perfect love is able to co-labor.

Perfect love is able to trust.

Perfect love is able to form character.

Perfect love is able to foster obedience.

Perfect love is able to keep no record of wrongs.

Perfect love is able honor those you don't like.

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Yes. God's love will always prevail. But don't expect Him to do things your human way...and that's for your own growth and benefit as a son or daughter.

He wants us free of self. Free of fear. Free of agenda. Free of sorrow. Free of hurt. Free of our faults and failures. Free of anything and all that comes between us and our purpose in Him.

Thankfully. We can count on His love to \*never\* be wrapped around fear, pride, or selfishness. But. We can also very much count on His love to perfectly strip ourselves of the thorns and thistles that stunt our own growth.

Trees that are lovingly pruned will always bear more fruit.

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# Sun Rise and His Goodness

On vacation, and woke up this am to watch the sun rise, and had an “ah ha” moment. It’s all a matter of our human perspective. We say we watch the sun rise, but really the earth is the one doing all the rotating.

The sun is still. Always. Kind of like God. God never changes, He is constant, unwavering, and He never moves. **WE** are the ones moving. He is good, always good. No matter if we move too far left of Him, or too far right—He will always be good.

No matter how far away that we rotate into self-imposed darkness, and no matter how super dark it may seem—  
**HE IS STILL THERE AND STILL GOOD!**

Hebrews 13:8

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

# The Old You Has Been Disarmed

The word **apekdyomai** in the Greek means to wholly strip off, lay aside, or disarm.

Paul uses this word in Colossians 2:13-15 to describe what happened at the cross. Satan was forever disarmed and no longer has **POWER** over sin and death. This side of the cross, neither sin nor death is able to keep the believer from eternity. (Hebrews Chapters 2 and 9)

\* All sin on the body of Christ. All.

\* And we are alive now. Here. We don't die, our mortal bodies fade and we just keep on living!

But this same word *apekdyomai* is also used a few verses later in Colossians 3:9-10 to describe taking off the *old self*.

It's been wholly stripped away. For those who choose to walk by the spirit, *the old you is powerless and has been disarmed*. Yep. Rendered no match against the new creation!

Those who walk by the spirit...have been stripped away from the penalty of sin, the fear of eternal death, **AND** the desire to fuel the old self with bad habits.



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Yes. Those who have been set free from sin, death, and self—can't help but set captives free. It's impossible to be truly set free and not set others free!

Colossians 2:13-15 ESV (comments added):

“And you, who were dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made alive together with him, having forgiven us all our trespasses, <sup>14</sup> by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. <sup>15</sup> He **disarmed (apekdyomai)** the rulers and authorities and put them to open shame, by triumphing over them in him.”

Colossians 3:9-10 ESV (comments added):

“Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have **put off (apekdyomai)** the *old self* with its practices <sup>10</sup> and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.”

# Life is Fair

Choose one:

- a) Good things happen to good people.
- b) Bad things happen to good people.
- c) Good things happen to bad people.
- d) Bad things happen to bad people.
- e) All of the above.

We live in a fallen world, with fallen world problems. We live in a once perfect, but yet now broken system.

God isn't the author of chaos.

God isn't the author of suffering.

God isn't the author of pain.

God isn't the author of affliction.

God isn't the author of your hurt.

**BUT.**

God **IS** the author of your faith. Hebrews 12:2

God **IS** the author of your answer. Matthew 21:22

God **IS** the author of His work in you. Philippians 1:6

God **IS** the author of His glory to be revealed in you.

Romans 8:18

“And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.” (Romans 8:28)

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That doesn't mean everything will work out **\*\*your\*\*** way, this simply means for sons and daughters everything will work out **HIS** way.

What way is that?

Glad you asked.

For those who follow the Spirit, in each and every situation your position in Christ becomes more and more revealed.

Each hurtful and unfortunate situation becomes turned into an affirmation of **WHO** you are in Christ, and the power you hold.

Every hurt.

Every negative event.

Every thorn stuck in your side.

Every insult.

Every injury.

Every delay.

Every defeat.

Reveals the **WHO** in you, and the kingdom based purpose you bear. And, that's always good.

Be revealed.

Romans 8:18-19 (emphasis mine)

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“I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be \*\*\*revealed\*\*\*.”

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# Jesus Answers 911 Calls a Bit Differently

When there is a fire next door...who do we call? 911!

When someone steals our purse...who do we call? 911!

When someone falls to the ground and just can't get up...who do we call? 911!

Of course, when we call 911 we have the personal expectation that when police, fire, or medical arrive on the scene that they will bring great relief as they quickly remedy the situation. That is logical. That is what these wonderful service men and women are hired and trained to do.

When there is a crisis in our life, we call upon Jesus, His name, and His grace. That too is logical. Hey, His grace gives us access to a name above all other names, the power of the universe, and the cattle on a thousand hills (Philippians 2:9; Psalm 50). We call upon His precious name for big things, small things, thankful things, and everything in between!

Yet, we as Christians often mistake our Holy Spirit direct hotline to the Father as a quick fix. We dial up in the expectation of God quickly changing our circumstance,

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and when we aren't immediately delivered...we get depressed, angry, doubtful, or even resentful.

But true grace sustains and shelters during a storm in order to grow the very one being sheltered. In other words, true grace often changes the person instead of the circumstance.

Despite rational thinking, Abraham had to leave everything to go to a foreign land and be willing to offer his son Isaac. Noah had to build the ark...despite massive ridicule. David had to go after the mighty giant with 5 smooth stones. Daniel had to face the well toothed lion. The three boys had to encounter the fiery furnace. After coming to his senses, Jonah still had to go to Nineveh.

Esther had to face a very powerful and scary king. Despite having the power to prevent it, Jesus still had to go to the cross. After the crucifixion, the disciples had to leave the locked room and start their new ministry... even with the angry mob at their front door. Despite pain, Paul got up and went right back into the very town where the people had just killed him!

In the 911 call, God had the power to prevent EACH of these circumstances from happening. Noah could have had an ark magically appear behind a tree, Goliath could have been swallowed by an earthquake, the lion could have had heart failure, the king could have had a scary dream and helped out Esther, so on and so forth.

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Yet, each one of them displayed courage and faith...and changed the world around them. It is impossible to please Him without a world changing faith (Hebrews 11:6)—therefore He is going to provide those situations in which we are to have faith.

In our storms, His GRACE will provide us the strength, resources, and direction.

Why?

Because He loves us and desires us to be fruitful for the kingdom. We belong to Him, and to bear more fruit the tree must be pruned. In our struggles, we are given opportunities to take our eyes off ourselves and right onto Him. In our difficulties, we are able to see that He CHOSE us, WHO we are in Him, and the incomparably great power that WE have to impact and encourage others around us.

Through our moments of pain, we learn that HE is in charge, that we are more than conquerors, and that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us. We become changed for His purposes even as the circumstances rage on around us!

I once heard a pastor say that the best way for new baby trees to grow...is for us to go out at night and shake the tree a bit. The shaking of the tree draws the roots deeper and deeper into the ground, so as the tree matures...it

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becomes strong and sturdy. Able to withstand all storms!

Well, as His kids we are to be oaks of His righteousness ... a planting by The Lord to display His own love, splendor, and power (Isaiah 61:3). To display His greatness, we must first be well rooted and established in His love.

Storms teach us about His love for us and in us, exercise our growing faith, shake our tree a bit, push our roots established in His love far, far deeper...and serve to prepare us for His purposes.

Embrace Him in the storm...for you have been chosen by His grace to advance the kingdom!

Ephesians 3:17

“...so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love...”

**STILL NOT SURE? LOOK IT UP:** John 3:16; Psalm 28:7; Isaiah 41:10; Ephesians 3:17-19, Romans 7:4; Romans 8:28; Proverbs 19:21; Ephesians 1:17-19; 1 Peter 2:9; Galatians 3:26; Romans 8:17; Philippians 4:13, Isaiah 61:3; and Romans 8:37.



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# **PURPOSE: Life is a Short Stack of Pancakes**

Bad things happen to good people...but for those that love The Lord...bad things will always end up being good things!

I remember when I was a baby Christian, I left teaching 6th grade for a few years to start a business. Well, that business failed. Another business failed. And, my word, yet another business failed.

Failure is not fun, and this kind of persistent financial failure wasn't easy on my mind, stress level, faith, or even my wallet.

Yet, if those businesses had flourished right out of the gate, I can promise you that I wouldn't be the same person I am today. I know, that I know I would be a Christian who believes Jesus is a magic lamp that if rubbed just the right way—you get exactly what you asked for and STAT!

Look, I would be a spoiled Christian, who has no idea who Jesus is...or who I am to be in Him. I'd have certainly been useless and fruitless (Romans 7:4). You see, my failures have become kingdom successes. Everything in our lives that seems painful, is merely a kingdom success in waiting.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

Romans 8:28 says, “And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.”

Well, I want to break this scripture apart into 3 sections.

The scripture says, in all things God works for the good of those who love him. It doesn't say all things are good, Paul is saying that in every circumstance—good, bad, or ugly—GOD is working on your behalf for your good! The scripture isn't saying that all things are good—far better than that—Paul is saying that our God is GOOD in all things.

Here is a better way of looking at it.

Ever make pancakes?

Ingredients to make pancakes include items like milk, butter, eggs, flour, baking powder, salt, blueberries, strawberries, bananas...and chocolate chips. If you were to eat these ingredients raw...I'm betting that most of them would taste yucky. Now, some of the ingredients like the chocolate chips and fruit may taste great apart from the other parts of the recipe. That is where, I personally, get very impatient and what was meant to be in the pancake mix finds its way into my belly!

Yet, when the pancake is cooked and ready...all of the ingredients together taste wonderful! In fact, too much

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or too little of each of the necessary ingredients for the recipe would destroy the balanced taste of the pancake. In that case, what a waste of time, effort, and resources! When The Lord is ready to put a perfectly balanced short stack of pancakes on your plate...every ounce of pain you have been through will make much more sense.

Each moment of joy and pain in your life becomes perfectly balanced together to create abundant life in you to advance The Lord's kingdom and His purposes. Not everything was good, but God worked on your behalf for it ALL to taste good together!

Now, of course, the next part of Romans 8:28 talks about those who have been called.

Let's look at that part this way. Let's say I am cleaning out my junk filled and dirty garage, and I send an e-mail out to all 277 of my friends and family members inviting them ALL to help. It's a yucky volunteer job description, but I promise pizza, laughs, good music, and lots of hugs and pats on the back to those that show up.

Everyone that received the e-mail has been called...yep, each of them. But those that actually show up...those are the chosen. All of those that personally know me had been invited to the "garage clean up fest"...but few of them had been chosen to actually help out (Matthew 22:14). It doesn't matter if an 85-year-old man, a 29-year-old pregnant woman, or a 10-year-old child shows up at my house...they each were chosen by me and they

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will each be assigned responsibilities in the garage that fit their interests, abilities, talents, and skill sets.

EVERYONE who knows The Lord has been called...but few have been chosen. EVERYONE who knows The Lord has been invited to help advance the kingdom, but few have been chosen. On to the next part of the verse...

We have been called according to His purpose...not ours. Proverbs 19:21 says, “Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails.”

We don’t get to tell God what we will or won’t do in His garage once we do show up. He—and He alone—assigns our purpose in the kingdom of His garage.

Why?

You can’t do what you weren’t equipped, prepared, built, or designed to do.

For example, I probably wouldn’t ask the 10 year old child to work on the faulty wiring in the garage door system. But, I would certainly love to have the 10 year old child sweep out the floor or help move small boxes. In the kingdom of His garage, yes it’s tough to fathom, but He doesn’t assign ONE person to do ALL of the work in the garage—lest they burn out and not come back! (1 Corinthians 12:12-27)

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What's more we don't tell God, "Hey, while I'm here—let me go inside the house and vacuum for you." No, you ask God first, "God, would you like me to go in the house and vacuum?"

Yet, this is where many Christians get stuck in a "law" or "works" mode. I must do, since I was asked by someone. I must help out with so and so or this and that because I'd be letting someone down. I must do my part or this and that is going to fail. I must help out or they won't like me. Yes, we must take every request made to us, and bring it before Him.

Honestly, YOU may not have been on the e-mail by Him for THAT project! Anything that is OUTSIDE of our specific purpose... must be left right at His feet.

In fact, when we race to do EVERYTHING we have been asked to do by others...we rob someone else of that blessing and opportunity to grow. Go figure!

As someone once said, "We are human BE-ings, not human DO-ings." Worse, when we live to "do"...there is a price to pay. We are robbed of time with God and our families, our focus is taken off the very assignment God has for us, and we get sapped of our strength. In truth, the assignment we WERE given by Him...greatly suffers.

I'm NOT saying NOT to do things!  
I'm NOT saying NOT to help people or causes.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

We are each called to push the kingdom forward. We are each called to bear fruit. We are each called to be servants of the Most High. Yet, I AM saying, we must sincerely take each and every thing we do in His precious name and ask Him first, “Father, what do you say about this?” Otherwise, we risk living a life outside of His purpose for us (Matthew 7:22).

When we are outside His will—and we work on stuff of our own choosing in His garage—we become destined to fail, we open ourselves up to unnecessary hurt or pain, and we risk experiencing a drag in our relationship with both Him and others. Because we failed and experienced hurt... in a situation that wasn't ever designed for us...all too often our spiritual growth takes a hit. Hey, maybe you weren't designed to change the light fixture in the garage?

But of course, the problem with asking Him first...is that we need to know how to listen. His sheep know His voice, and we must seek out that voice. And, we need to be okay with the answer.

Thank you for your e-mails to me about your garage Father! Thank you for choosing me to serve You! I praise you God for my pain, and I praise You for making everything work out for my own good and the good of the kingdom.

Matthew 22:14 “For many are invited, but few are chosen.”

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## Mess with Their Heads

Yes, the Pharisees very often challenged Jesus and they tried to trap Him in stuff.

But I soooooo love the fact that Jesus didn't just sit back and take it, He would very much intentionally mess with the heads of the Pharisees. Things like being in the home of a Pharisee **ON** the sabbath and asking if it's cool to heal the sick **ON** the sabbath. Then Jesus scopes the room and heals a guy right there in the middle of the Pharisee's house.

Or when Jesus is invited out to lunch with a group of Pharisees and on purpose doesn't wash His hands first before He eats...just only to dig at the crazed group how unclean their hearts were.

But this is my favorite.

Jesus heals the leper and has the guy give the Pharisees the sacrificial stuff Moses said they needed to do in order to be made whole. Yes. The guy was already 100% whole—but hadn't made any required sacrifices yet.

“Then Jesus ordered him, ‘Don't tell anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the sacrifices that Moses commanded for your cleansing, as a testimony to them.’” (Luke 5:14)

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We don't make sacrifices to be made whole, we **ARE** the living sacrifice and it's our joy to love others unto wholeness even when we have battles raging in our own lives.

Folks. If you really want to mess with someone's head—love them when they don't deserve it. Heal them when you aren't yet whole. Feed them when you can hardly feed yourself.

It takes love, to teach love.



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# Hello, My Name Is

Imagine if people walked around with name tags to tell us how they see themselves or what needs they have.

Would you stop calling them names?

Would you cut them a break and give them the benefit of the doubt?

Would you invest time in them?

Would you pray for them?

We must see people how they see themselves so we can pray truth, life, and heaven into them. The more revealed to us, the more we can speak into them how God sees us.

Ask God to reveal more and more about those people around you. Not so you can condemn them, but so you can feed them daily manna.

# Purpose: Nails in Your Tire

My wife and I like to go for walks in our neighborhood, and my wife is kind enough to walk slow for me! Man, I'm getting old.

Well, lately we have found ourselves picking up all the metal nails and screws that come across our path in the street. Truly, there are days we come across dozens of these things. After meditating and praying about all these nails, I've come to realize that there are 3 kinds of people in this world.

The first kind of person doesn't care a rats behind about the nails. They drop them. They let them fall out of their pick up or service trucks. They ignore them. They step over them.

Frankly, they are very aware of the nails.

These people don't do dinky squat about them, even though the nails are a pest to everyone in the neighborhood.

Despite their lack of service to the community, it both rains and shines on these people and their families. Like everyone else in the world, they experience both good things and bad things in their lives. And, usually, they

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thank themselves for the good stuff and find a way to blame God for all the bad stuff.

The second kind of person makes every effort to pick up the loose nails. They are good people, they love their neighbors. They do the **RIGHT** thing and are right standing (righteous) in their community. They pay attention and they serve.

Why? Because it impacts people around them, and they take joy in loving others and helping people out.

Now, just because they do the right thing—and help people—doesn't mean that they won't ever get a flat tire! They don't suddenly become immune to random flats from a well placed metal object. They are in the world, and they are going to have to deal with worldly issues.

In fact, I can 100% guarantee that when they **DO** get a flat tire...it will be an opportunity to advance the kingdom. I promise you, they will be a blessing, joy, inspiration, and point of witness to the dispatch operator, tow truck driver, and tire store guy.

Bad things happen to good people. Yet, bad junk will **ALWAYS** be a kingdom growing opportunity...if we choose to operate our lives from that perspective.

The third kind of person...literally takes the nails for someone else.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

The third kind of person sacrifices to advance the kingdom. The third kind of person knows **WHO** they are in Him and that they indeed belong to another (Romans 7:4).

The third kind of person takes their suffering...and makes it meaningful to others. The third kind of person knows they have a beautiful treasure inside them...and, that all they are is an earthenware vessel.

The third kind of person knows they are a messenger of His love—and that their pain and troubles will one day be used to trouble the enemy.

The third kind of person shakes off the hurt that Jesus had promised would come—because He is right there in the storm with them. The third kind of person shakes off the dust to stand up and rise up for what is noble—and for what glorifies their King.

The third kind of person knows there is great purpose in them, because there is a great God dwelling inside of them. The third person understands that they have been given and entrusted with much, and that much more will be asked of them (Luke 12:48).

The third person understands that the power of the entire universe dwells right inside them (Ephesians 1:19-21), and they honor that understanding with great responsibility.

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He didn't design you to suffer. He designed you to walk with Him, to glorify Him, to be like Him...and to rule and reign with Him.

You are royalty. Why? Because you are a child of **THE** King. You are holy. Why? Because you are a child of **THE** Holy One. You are a priest. Why? Because you are a child of **THE** High Priest.

You were created for Him and purposed by Him...yep, flat tires and all.

2 Corinthians 4:7-12

“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. <sup>8</sup> We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; <sup>9</sup> persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. <sup>10</sup> We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. <sup>11</sup> For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body. <sup>12</sup> So then, death is at work in us, but life is at work in you.”

# Guardians of Truth

Going to get mocked for this. But. Oh well.

I believe we are in a season where God is exposing darkness. So, that we—His people—can shine truth and bring peace, hope, and glory.

Honestly. I'm not really sure society is worse than it was say 10 years back. I'd argue things that rested safely in darkness—that we are just now seeing—had been there all along!!!

What are the undercurrents of recent scandals, tensions, and violence reported across our news and media?

- Greed
- Lust
- Power
- Selfishness
- Pride
- Fear
- Jealousy
- Shortage/Perceived Lack
- Anger
- Hate
- Discontentment

All fruit of darkness.

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Paul says, “But everything exposed by the light becomes visible—and everything that is illuminated becomes a light.” (Ephesians 5:13)

The junk we are seeing has always been there— but as God pours out His own light (in preparation for a radical outpouring of His Spirit)—yes, each of these horrible things becomes a light!

Think about it.

Enter a dark room with a flashlight—shine it on a chair— that chair itself becomes a light to the rest of the room.

Issues that held our nation and people back—junk that has sat unattended to in the darkness—is now a light unto themselves to bring focus and change.

- Change that we are guardians of.
- Change that we have been commissioned to rally for.
- Change His people have been purposed for.
- Change that lives within us.
- Change that has been prayed for by generations worth of His sons and daughters.
- Change that breaks chains and unshackles the bound.

His Spirit is coming (Joel chapters 2 and 3).

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Unstable and shaky foundations must be exposed as broken before they can be properly rebuilt.

Yes. You can quote me.

As evil continues to outpour more and more via tragedy, pain, hurt, distress, fear, and division...I tell you, watch for an unparalleled and permanent global outpouring of His Holy Spirit.

Don't buy into the distraction of lies and false bravado of darkness—for what's coming into the earth is a lasting "steroid injection" of His might, power, strength, peace, hope, joy, goodness, purpose, and call of His people.

The enemy is playing his losing hand. Man oh man, wait for the Father's response.

Yes. Get ready to roll up your sleeves Guardians of Truth.



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# The Modern Church

This is a word for someone—I'm 100% certain. Yes, the haters can hate and I've now learned where the Facebook block button is.

After spending 17 years in a legalistic brick and mortar church, I've spent the last 4 years in a cave.

Caves aren't bad—David spent time in a cave.

Caves are times of growth, protection, self-reflection, preparation, maturation, and character building.

Having been greatly influenced by legalistic Judaism (bar mitzvah and all), then into legalistic church (I even earned my pastor credentials), and then head on into the way, way extreme positions of grace...

For me, for my call, for my purpose in Christ—I needed to figure out what I (ALAN CAPLIN) believe.

For too long I would stand on the word of others, but now I stand on the word of God. With balance between zeal and truth as my guide, I firmly know what I believe—and why.

But, I can tell you that with time in the cave—there were days of withering. There were days of great isolation.

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There were days where nourishment needed to be sought. There were days I badly needed a meal.

Yes, there were even those days that **\*\*I\*\*** desperately needed to SPEAK **\*\*INTO\*\*** someone else. For me, yes— THAT was the single hardest part about the cave. Oh to be wired for something, and not be actually doing it.

I can tell you flat out, I don't agree with everything about the brick and mortar church. But...

There are things I don't agree with about professional sports. I still go to games.

There are things I don't agree with about malls. I still go to malls.

There are things I don't agree with about my job. I still go to work.

There are things I don't agree with about my wife. I still have loved her dearly for the last 30 years.

Someone said something recently that shook me, "You might not need the church, but the church needs you."

Is every brick and mortar right for everyone ~ no.  
Is every brick and mortar solid on doctrine ~ no.  
Is every brick and mortar based on truth ~ no.  
Is every brick and mortar centered on Christ ~ no.

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But if you are willing to look—there are many GOOD people leading the brick and mortar. And. There are people who genuinely desire what's in God's heart.

Find one that you can have faith for.  
Find one that God can give you the grace to grow with.  
Find one that you can speak life into.  
Find one that you can bring light into.  
Find one that you can be the necessary change.  
Find one that you can be the light of Christ.

When YOU enter a room, the room is just different.  
When YOU enter a room, living hope is ignited.  
When YOU enter a room, peace permeates through people.  
When YOU enter a room, the atmosphere changes.  
When YOU enter a room, people see Christ in you.  
When YOU enter a room, the kingdom itself shakes.

A room, somewhere—needs you—no matter how badly another room has hurt you.

If not a brick and mortar room...then at least be light, healing, peace, and hope in a hospital, school system, nursing home, or retirement center.

While obedient and growing within your purpose of dwelling inside the cave, God prepares a place for you.

# Our Authority

I was subbing for a 5th grade teacher once, and I made a student named Seth in charge of the entire class. Seth was tiny, tiny. I made Seth the teacher for the day and I told him he had the power to take away recess, to give extra homework, and to give lunch detention.

He looked at me like I was crazy. How were these other kids going to listen to him?

Well, while he was teaching the lesson...I took off my neck tie and I placed it around his neck. I stood behind him with my arms crossed the entire time he was in front of the class...and there wasn't one peep in the room. Why? He was operating in MY authority.

It is no different with Jesus!

He stands along side us and INSIDE us with His power and authority...we simply operate in Him! He has given us authority over darkness! Yes...when we believe it, we can walk in it!

Here is another way of looking at it.

A friend of mine who is a police officer once told me a story about his wife at a traffic stop. His wife had been pulled over for speeding, and when the officer

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approached her car window...he saw a local police association sticker on the windshield.

The officer asked her, "Are you an officer?" She said, "No, but my husband is."

The officer at the traffic stop let her go. Not because of anything that she had done...but because of WHO her husband is! She operated in her husband's authority! Without going to the police academy, she operated in HIS badge!

It is no different with Jesus! He shed His blood. He is King! He is the Holy One of Israel!

We, as His deputized co-workers...get to operate in what He did at the cross! Without shedding our own blood...WE too died...shedding our old nature and now operating in the power of His blood!

When we look at the global news, it is easy to think the world is going to the dogs. But look again, it is going to His co-heirs. Great things are coming to those desiring and willing to walk in their God given authority!

## “This” That Brings

Moses tells the people to bring their animal sacrifices to the altar and tells them, “**This** is what the Lord has commanded you to do, so that the glory of the Lord may appear to you.” (Leviticus 9:6, emphasis mine)

Yes, “this” specific action would bring the glory of God. Yes, there was something one could do to usher in His very presence.

This action, was laying hands on the head of the animal being offered. The Israelites would impart their sins **INTO** the animal in order to bring about the atonement for sin. And God would consume the animal.

Laying hands isn’t a Christian thing, this was originally a Jewish thing. Yes. And as new covenant participants, we too get to do “this” that brings the glory or presence of God.

We lay hands on the sick, we impart the power of the Holy Spirit **INTO** HIS own people...and with a prayer of faith they **SHALL** recover. Yes. God will show up, and He consumes **US** in His very presence.

If you want to see His glory, do this that brings.

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

Mark 16:17-20; James 5:14-15

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# Bad Things

If Satan were 100% powerless, and God in full control with **HIS** will always being done...earth would look like it does in heaven.

Check your window.

God's will is for **HIS PEOPLE** to bring heaven **THROUGH** us to make earth look more like heaven.

If God's will were **ALWAYS** done, then He wouldn't ask us to partner with Him in prayer to accomplish that same will.

There is a god in this earth with an army of demonic prowess, and the greatest power darkness has is deception.

Lies about the world.

Lies about God's nature.

Lies about His written word.

Lies about your future.

Lies about your purpose.

Lies about what dwells in you.

Lies about your neighbor.

Lies about your spouse.

Lies about your situation.

Lies about **YOU!**

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**YOU** have authority!  
**YOU** have strength!  
**YOU** have giftings!  
**YOU** have the anointing **IN** you.  
**YOU** have the armor of Christ!  
**YOU** have the faith of Christ!  
**YOU** have an incomparable power in you!  
**YOU** have the right to trample on serpents!  
**YOU** have the right to see people healed!  
**YOU** have the right to speak in tongues!  
**YOU** have the right to cast out demons!

No, God isn't in full control. Yes. God is the supreme power of the universe, but God is not in 100% control over all that happens. He loves us too much to take away our free will, and free will is at the core of most our troubles.

Look. If God is fully in control...then that means our loving God is choosing who suffers and who doesn't, who is healed and who isn't, who fail and who succeeds, and who is saved and who isn't. That means God **WILLINGLY** allows evil to touch our lives. That makes God bi-polar rather than an arbiter of justice.

The belief that God is fully in control makes people either angry at Him when bad things happen—or we become passive martyrs when things come at us that **WE** have control over! God didn't make your bad stuff



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happen, and God surely didn't make you a spiritual door mat!

Satan has manipulative or deceptive power...and oh how does he love to tug on our will. Satan armed with this power of deception isn't fully defeated until the back of the book...but far too many believers stand defeated before they get out of bed in the morning.

God isn't sending you trouble, but **GOD** will make it **ALL** benefit the kingdom in the spiritual realm.

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

Romans 5:1; Romans 8:18; Romans 8:28; James 1:4.

# Flip the Switch

*Hebrews 2:8* basically says everything is under the feet of Jesus. Jesus is the head over all authority. Jesus has all authority over all power and all things. **NO-THING** is outside His own scope of authority.

Yet that verse also says that we do **NOT** yet **SEE** everything bow in subjection to Him and His authority.

Maybe for more broken things to be **SEEN** bowing in subjection to His authority, believers must **FIRST** fearlessly submit themselves to God.

His power is free, but we must flip the switch and turn it on. And this can only come at the full cost of self. You died. And you live in Christ to bring more life.

Yes. God is in charge with full authority, yet He's given us far more control over all power in the earth than we currently dare to believe for.

Christian, you are His body and His fullness dwells in you. You are **HIS** body through which His power flows. As co-heir, **YOU** are **WHO** Jesus uses in the earth to speak and act.

I'm foolish enough to believe God for some ridiculous things. Be foolish too.

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**SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

James 4:7; Colossians 3:3; Romans 6:3-6; Romans 7:1-4;  
Colossians 2:9-10; Ephesians 1:17-23

# Being Real

Can I be real for a second? Yep. This might be my own Jerry Maguire moment.

It is inexcusable to teach all sin is paid for **(which it is)** and to **NOT** say in the same exact breath that you died at the cross and you don't belong to you.

We are quick to rail against religion and anything that even smells like religiosity, but we are so very hesitant to live pure and devote ourselves to the God who made us alive with **HIS** own Spirit.

Folks. Setting captives free from man-made religion, but keeping them stuck as slaves to self is akin to cleaning out someone's filthy, cluttered garage and then dumping all that junk in their own living room. There is zero point to fixating on religion as the main source of our bondage if we aren't going to acknowledge that we often hold ourselves captive to self.

Gonna be honest for a second. Years ago, once I heard that all sin was paid for, yes I did a couple of very minor really stupid things...**AND GOD VIVIDLY CORRECTED ME!**

Why? He loves me. And because I love Him, I stopped the behavior on a dime. Nope. Wasn't even hard to obey.

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What's more. Right after this correction, I had caught on to my co-death, co-burial, and co-resurrection.

Temptation to sin hasn't been a problem since, because dead men don't sin!!! We as sons have no use for it.

My moral barometer doesn't go up and down or wildly fluctuate with fleeting lusts of the world; I'm too busy desiring to emulate the One I love.

Look. If you don't belong to you, then that makes Grace full supply.

- Peace
- Strength
- Faith
- Resources
- Wisdom
- Provision
- Hope
- Purpose
- Patience
- Healing
- Connections
- Giftings

All free. All yours. All available.

Because you are His joy, and God will not do what Pharaoh did. He won't ask you to work the fields and not provide. We don't serve a God of "make bricks with no

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straw.” We serve the God of “build our kingdom, and here is my Spirit.”

I’m simply tired of the **INCOMPLETE** grace message being a horrible front for selfishness as we dismiss the concept of selflessness.

**YOU DIED.**

**YOU DON’T BELONG TO YOU.**

**YOU ARE ALIVE IN CHRIST TO BEAR FRUIT.**

Ain’t nobody dead to the world and fixated on Jesus has time for satisfying the desires of self.

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

Romans 6:7

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# Armor of God

Folks, Ephesians 6:10-20 says we are given full body armor...**ALL** offensive weapons. **NOT** defensive ones!

- Helmet of salvation
- Breastplate of righteousness
- Belt of truth
- Feet fitted with the gospel of peace
- Sword of the Spirit
- Shield of faith

Each piece of armor protects the **MIND** while we push against darkness and evil with the power of our spirit man!

As positions of the mind, the armor:

1. Guards what we know is true
2. Protects our identity in Christ
3. Reminds us of the authority we have
4. Reveals our purpose in Christ
5. Reminds us of His **PAST** faithfulness
6. Guards us from deceptive and self defeating lies from the enemy
7. Reminds us of our right standing and covenant with God and He makes a way with our own **TONGUE!!!!**

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

Notice, the armor has **ZERO** protection for the backside of the body, because Roman soldiers did **NOT** ever retreat!

They boldly fought directly ahead with purpose, identity, and equipped call.

Just because you have armor doesn't mean you won't feel the blows against your own mind and thought life...yes, you will often hear the pounding on your mind by the enemy of your soul.

**BUT**, when you voice truth, use your own tongue, fan the gift of The Holy Spirit into flame, **GUARD** your mind in Truth, and push directly ahead in acts of **OFFENSE** (not defense) you will hear less and less of that voice of the stranger.

Armor blocks, but we choose to let the external noise get to us.

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

Ephesians 3:16; Isaiah 54:17



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# REPENT!

“Yes. Father, I believe you are who you say you are—and I believe I am who you say I am.” Repentance isn’t always “I’m sorry.”

**REPENT!**

**REPENT!**

**REPENT!**

Yes. Of course!

**Metanoia** (Greek) Change thinking patterns

**Teshuvah** (Hebrew) Heart Born Return to God

- To turn toward God and away from wrongdoing.
- To turn from works of flesh to works of the Spirit.
- To change one’s own mind from a superficial position of self, to an eternal position in Christ.
- To be born of God, rather than born of the world.

Yes. From the belly of belief, it’s our return to Him from one’s inner most core. Repentance isn’t at all about sorry, and it’s far more than just changing our own wrongful thinking. People can say sorry, or change their thought patterns—and yet never mean those words and new thoughts, nor change destructive behaviors.

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Repentance is to decide God's way is better—and to make Him the center of your own heart and universe.

Despite the prepared speech, the very second the prodigal son turned from the pig pen and walked home...his thoughts toward his own situation and dad changed, and he began his journey home.

Folks. The prodigal son changed his mind in the pig pen, but turned his heart when he stepped out!

Truly.

Repentance is a 24/7 lifestyle, as there is **ZERO** biblical mention of repentance outside of our initial salvation.

Why?

A Jesus-centered life can't help but turn toward Him.

Every second. Of every day.

Alan Caplin

# EGO: Healed Unto Wholeness

God wants us healed unto wholeness, and that is a wholeness of:

- spirit
- body
- soul (which includes the mind)

All of which begins with an awakening of who we are in Christ.

The moment you believe, you are a new creation—fused here, now with His own Spirit. You are eternal, sealed, and forever. The old version of you—yes, with your old ways of relating to others and the world—are no longer at all practical for a life led and fueled by the spirit.

We take off the old self of flesh, and put on the new self firmly rooted in Christ. For the old you and your old ways have been disarmed or set aside (*apekdyomai*), and we now operate from His ways of thinking and problem solving, not our own.

Therefore...

Our thought life (**minds**) are made whole by governing our thoughts by the Spirit.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

Our **spirits** are made whole the moment we believe. We are eternal, both death and sin forever put away—no longer a threat to our security in Christ.

Our physical **bodies** are made whole through any spirit led combination of faith, trust, prayer, patience, perseverance, repentance, believing unto rest, agreement with God's truth, submission unto God, resisting the devil, taking authority and enforcing God's legal work on the cross, and rebuking of all demonic principalities and lies.

Yes. It's done, paid for. We stand firm until we see it materialize on either side of heaven!

But what about our **soul**? The soul is the you part of you. The soul consists of our feelings, emoting, thinking, throngs of the heart, our personality, our own will, affections, aversions, and our overall mental makeup. Yes, the soul (our essence) is the only eternal part of our bodies that will **not** fade with physical death. Yep, the you part of you **IS** forever!

But—while here in the earth—how are our souls saved or made whole?

### **Matthew 16:25 (comments added)**

For whoever wants to save (**sōzō: heal**) their life (**psyché: soul**) will lose it, but whoever loses their life (**psyché: soul**) for Me (**egō: I am**) will find it.

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*Rephrased: "For whoever wants to heal their soul, will lose it, but whoever loses their soul for "I Am" shall find it!"*

Simply.

Instead of holding on to our way, we desire His way.

Powered by love and spirit, we assume or take on His *EGO* or nature. We died. And, alive in Christ, we now live for the One who died for us.

We let go of our **EGO** and take on His! Yes. We take on His identity (*egō*) to find rest for our weary souls and to discover our true self rooted in I Am!

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

1 Corinthians 2:16; Romans 8:6; Hebrews 2:14-15;  
Hebrews 9:26-28; 2 Corinthians 5:14-15

# Confession

I have an earth shattering confession.

Ready.

I no longer consider myself a grace teacher. I just don't.

Don't get me wrong, I teach grace - and grace is the large undercurrent of so many kingdom based principles. Without an accurate understanding of grace, we are lost as effective sons and daughters.

But, I consider myself a Centrist. What I teach, is what I've found to be the center of **ALL** the streams and brands of Christianity. I'd go as far as to say there are some positions I hold, that I've seen few others even gravitate towards.

Not every stream is 100% wrong.

Not every stream is 100% correct.

And, many brands quarrel when they are really saying the same thing.

From the middle ground, I teach both the kindness and severity of God towards all of humanity (Romans 11:22).

God isn't all kindness.

God isn't all severity and wrath.

## Alan Caplin

God is **ALL** of both, to believer and unbeliever.

We need the full council of God, not dogmatic grace  
sound bytes.

# Grace and Coming Power

What happens when you have a dark brown wall and you want to paint over it with a new bright color?

You must first cover the wall with a coat of white primer.

That's the grace movement. The primer.

The church was (is) dark, and well steeped in legalism. God's grace and free gift of provision horribly mixed in with our own works, self-help, and self-righteousness. Simply put, the grace movement came as a needed correction for the church, and as a coat of primer for the new color that's coming.

The color form of Jesus.

The grace thing has gone way too far in many regards, but was greatly needed because grace is the undercoat for the coming power for the church.

If you don't know who you are.

If you don't know you are free.

If you don't know you are loved.

If you don't know God is good.

If you don't know you are whole.



## Alan Caplin

If you don't know you are forgiven.

How can you freely walk and operate in His power?

You can only surrender to God, if you first know God is **FOR** you.

Grace is the base, for The Spirit to paint the earth. Fueled by agape love ... healing, power, and giftings are all the natural extension of God's grace and goodness.

Peeps. Don't confuse much needed wall prep, with the final product. Grace is amazing, but so too is His church.

# Am I Saved?

I always remind people that we are legally saved or justified with our hearts, not with our minds. Salvation comes from the sealed and sanctified heart, not from our intellectual thought.

When I tell people this, often they ask, “then how do I know if I’m saved?”

Do you know if you love your dog?

Do you know if you love your child?

Do you know if you love your spouse?

Do you know if you love Jesus?

If the answer is yes, you are saved. And no demon in hell can take that from you. Ever.

Now. Do you know if you love your neighbor?

That’s the walking out part of our salvation!

## **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

Romans 10:10

Alan Caplin

# God Upholds

Writing from the airplane, I have to share it. The Holy Spirit showed this to me today. Blows my mind.

“He (Jesus) is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the \*\*\*\*word of his power\*\*\*\* (Hebrews 1:3 ESV).”

Notice it’s not power of the word, but word of His power. Different translations word it a bit differently, but this is the wording of the original Greek.

In the Greek, in this sentence the word for “word” is Rhema. The spoken word of God. It’s what you hear with your heart and spirit.

So, the universe and \*all in it\* is upheld by the spoken word of **HIS** own power. In other words, anything God has ever spoken He has **PROMISED** His **OWN** power to uphold and flow out of what was spoken.

Anything God has ever promised to **YOU** personally or any promise written in the Bible ... God has promised His own power to run that sucker right into existence.

It’s not your power that matters. It’s **GOD’s** power!

Think about this.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

He's promised to heal your marriage.

He's promised to heal your finances.

He's promised to heal your heart.

He's promised to heal your career.

He's promised you can heal the sick.

He's promised you can cast out demons.

He's promised you can raise the dead.

He's promised you can speak in tongues.

He's promised you can operate in the supernatural.

Are you in the universe? Yep. So you and your promises are too.

So. ***GOD's*** power is ***ALREADY IN IT!***

Move forward. His power will fuel and uphold everything promised by the precious Rhema (spoken word) of God.

# It's Already Inside You

Today at school I got to wear my Captain America outfit for Superhero Day ... there is no better day at work!

Anyhow, I was wearing the padded muscle outfit and I was kind of admiring the added bulk around my chest - but not really wanting to invest the time into adding the actual muscle.

The PE teacher is standing right there and says, "You do realize all those muscles are already inside you?"

All the lights went off in my head.

Whether I choose to work them into development or not, the muscles are there. Even if nobody can **SEE** them, they are still there!

So too are our spiritual giftings!

The second you believe, you are tethered to heaven. You are in union with The Holy Spirit. You don't need some grand experience with God to be able to:

- Heal the sick
- Raise the dead
- Cast out demons
- Speak in tongues

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

- See or hear in the Spirit realm

These gifts are **ALREADY** inside you.

But are you willing to walk these things out? Are you willing to work these skills into shape? Are you willing to risk some embarrassment working out in the Gym of The Holy Spirit to flex muscle in the Spirit realm?

Folks, you can't heal the sick if you are afraid to lay hands. You can't speak in tongues if you don't spend time with God to learn how to release the language of heaven. You can't understand the word of God, if you never spend time **IN** the word of God. And you surely can't hear God's voice if you talk more than you listen.

We must stop jealously desiring the muscles of others, when the powerful muscles already sit inside you.

Simply believe. Go. Be. Do.

Alan Caplin

# Crazy Simple

I'd like to point out something so crazy simple, yet so hard to grab ahold of.

Jesus. The One who made everything, the ruler of the universe. The supreme authority in all of the heavens.

Yes. The greatest human of all time!

Came to serve, not to **BE** served.

If the Creator came to serve the creation, then so too the creation to serve the creation with the Creator.

You are a co heir, and you are here to expand the kingdom.

It's not about you. It's about everyone around you.

Be intentional today.

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.” Mark 10:45 ESV

# The Image

Jesus is the exact representation of The Father. If you've seen Jesus, you've seen The Father.

And **YOU** are purposed to be the exact representation of Jesus. When people see you, they are to see Jesus.

But. There's a cost.

Self.

Jesus paid that cost. So can we.



Alan Caplin

# Lip Service

Many Jewish people as tradition, kiss the Torah as it marches past them during temple service. But, they don't honor what the Torah actually says about loving their neighbor.

Basically, it's lip service. Revered as the holy word, but not acted upon.

Yet. Christians do the very same thing with communion.

As the serving plates come by, we as tradition pass the bread and wine through our own lips. But we fail to actually **DO** communion with others.

Huh?

When we take communion, we aren't just reflecting or thanking God for what Christ did for us upon the cross - we are also pronouncing or professing the covenant of our co-participation **WITH** Jesus.

To bless the bread and wine before God, is to **REMEMBER** and **RECOMMIT** our active, participatory role in the kingdom.

Even though God could do everything in the earth on His own, God can't because that would actually violate His own will.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

As co heir, **WE** are to make earth look like heaven ...  
**WITH** Jesus. In the eyes of God, we are Plan A, B, and C.

“The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?”

1 Corinthians 10:16 ESV

Alan Caplin

# Let God Redecorate

Let's see the hands.

Has anyone ever sold a house and tried to throw in all the old furniture into the deal? You know, you toss in the old, junky furniture because you can make a few bucks or at very least you can save the hassle of hauling it away.

Well. If you don't want that stuff, what makes us think the new owner wants it?

Well.

God sealed your heart with Himself.

Marked you with His Holy Spirit.

Made you eternal through your own heart.

Made your heart bent towards His voice.

And made as The Sovereign of your heart - with sole ownership rights to all within it - is moving in to redecorate.

He made your heart His own - and He owns ALL the old furniture.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

- Hurts
- Bruises
- Loss
- Grief
- Deep emotions
- Painful memories

And God desires to toss all that furniture into the furnace.

Yet. Some who gave the furniture away - weren't really ready to let it go.

Folks, in this season, let God redecorate.

Alan Caplin

# Double Mindedness

The mind has thoughts.

The heart has thoughts.

When the heart and mind aren't operating in union  
towards the things of God .....

That's double mindedness. This brings death in our  
walk.

Flat out. Folks.

This must change in the hearts of believers.

Ready or not. The time is now.

# Out of His Heart

Where does the Holy Spirit flow? Through your heart.  
This is why the heart must be guarded.

In fact.

If within your heart, there are massive boulders of:

- Fear
- Shame
- Doubt
- Regret
- Hurt
- Anger
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Jealousy
- Bitterness

Not only can't the raging waters flow, but our hearts are weighed down by junk that isn't even ours to keep.

The chaos we see in the world right now, are reminders to clean out the boulders of the heart.

And a reminder, to flow into the earth unrestrained.

**Alan Caplin**

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.'" John 7:38  
ESV

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it. Proverbs 4:23 NIV

# The Law Fulfilled

To fulfill the law, we love others. That's simple, right?  
Romans 13:8-10

It's an easy peasy list of do **NOTs** ...

- Do **NOT** steal.
- Do **NOT** murder.
- Do **NOT** commit adultery.
- Do **NOT** covet.
- Do **NOT** bear false witness.
- Do **NOT** have other gods.
- Do **NOT** make idols.
- Do **NOT** forget the Sabbath.
- Do **NOT** forget to honor your parents.
- Do **NOT** take The Lord's name in vain.

At worst, if you do **NOTHING** bad to your neighbor, you can still love your neighbor as yourself. Let's get real peeps, most of us are experts at doing nothing intentionally bad to ourselves!

Law fulfilled, let's go get tacos!

Wait.

But, Jesus ups the ante of love:



## Alan Caplin

"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another. By this all people will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another." John 13:34-35 (ESV)

This type of agape love is a **DO!**

The law is fulfilled in our **NOT** doing harm, yet our love for Jesus is fulfilled in **DOING** good to others.

Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, cast out demons.

Then get tacos.

# Pow!

Wait. That's in there?

The simple things we miss far too easily (because we've been taught or sold otherwise):

“Now to him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of his glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, **THROUGH** Jesus Christ our Lord, **BE** glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and **now** and forever. Amen.” Jude 1:24-25 ESV

- Glory
- Majesty
- Dominion
- Authority

Not from Jesus working solo. Through Jesus. **NOW!**

Peeps. This is Jude's prayer **TO JESUS** about what is provided to us the believers **THROUGH JESUS!**

Great power you have.

## SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Jude 1:24-25

Alan Caplin

# Authority Over Demons

We had our house built many years ago, and the company who built the home put a foreman in charge of the build.

Let's call the foreman, Oscar. Let's call the builder, ABC Homes.

While overseeing our build, Oscar was also building homes for personal profit on the side too.

That's ok in itself, but Oscar did a couple things that were, stupid and abusive.

First. Oscar was stealing building materials from ABC Homes to build these side projects on his own. Worse, in return for working for free on these personal side homes, Oscar gave financial kickbacks to those contractors building the ABC Homes.

The net result.

Oscar had **ZERO** authority over the contractors.

They did whatever they wanted, strayed from project timelines, and did a terrible job on almost everything they touched because these guys had Foreman Oscar in their back pockets. Yep. One phone call to ABC Homes

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

from a mad contractor who felt pushed too far by Oscar, and Oscar had much to lose.

So, Oscar couldn't control the contractors. His mouth was silenced.

The same with demons.

Sleep with them, partner with them, do life with them ... and you have no voice against them. They own you.

The only way to resist the devil and force evil to flee, is to **FIRST** surrender to God. And, you can't fully surrender to God while pridefully hanging out or playing with the demonic realm. The spirit realm knows exactly who you are.

Yep. Just ask the Jewish exorcists who didn't believe in Jesus ... and were beaten and bloodied by the demons they were casting out.

Demons know you. Demons can use you. Demons believe in God and shudder. Yet. Do we?

"You cannot drink the cup of the Lord and the cup of demons. You cannot partake of the table of the Lord and the table of demons." 1 Corinthians 10:21 ESV

### **SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:**

James 2:19; James 4:7; Acts 19:15; 1 Corinthians 10:21

Alan Caplin

# You Will Know Them By Their Fruit

How can you spot a false or true believer? How can you spot a false teacher or false prophet?

By their fruit.

**WHAT** is that fruit? Is it deeds, works, or the things they do?

Nope. It's their character.

Character is the fruit of Righteousness, the fruit of Jesus, or better yet the sweet fruit of being a healthy branch constantly nourished by the vine.

Fruit isn't what you do, it's who you are! It's who you imitate. It's what comes out of your character when you are pressed by the world.

A diseased tree cannot produce good character, and a healthy tree cannot produce bad character. You will know them by their character (fruit).

Simply. You are **WHO** or **WHAT** you are rooted in.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

Folks. We don't measure the fruit, we imitate the Tree of Life, Jesus.

Matthew 7:15-20 ESV

### A Tree and Its Fruit

15 "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits."

Alan Caplin

# Olive Oil

Paul says in Romans 11 that the believing Gentiles have been grafted into ... an **OLIVE** tree. These are slow, steady growing fruit bearing trees that are deeply representative of the land of Israel.

- The roots/tree trunk are Jesus.
- The branches are **YOU**.
- The olives coming off your branches are the fruit of Jesus.

As the healthy branch, you are merely a conduit to the fruit being produced. You don't grow the fruit, Jesus does! That fruit, the fruit of righteousness, is your character.

But. How does the fruit (character) from the tree of Righteousness get converted into the flowing oil of Holy Spirit power? Olives must be **PRESSED** to give up its oil!

Within your own character, as you decrease and come to a place of full surrender ... the anointing oil increases. As you rely less and less on you, and more and more on Jesus ... His oil flows from deep within you.

Folks. You died. You don't belong to you. By grace, all you need to expand the kingdom is freely yours.

# Character of the Heart

It's impossible to be clothed with "layers of new" when we are still clothed with the clunky, obsolete, and awkward layers of the old.

New wine will always burst when clothed in the layers of old.

Why? The old lacks the proper elasticity to handle the rigors and power of the new.

- This is why God is working on your heart.
- This is why God is pruning your identity.
- This is why God is ripping out weeds from deep within you.
- This is why God is stretching your *inner capacity*.
- This is why God is making you feel uncomfortable.

God wants to pour **HIS** new wine through you, that which your current ways of living and identifying cannot support. God is reshaping and expanding the character of His own people, for the benefit of the kingdom.

In fact, that sack holding that new wine ... is your *heart!* Without the heart taking on HIS character, the heart can't sustain the power of the Holy Spirit running **THROUGH IT!**



## Alan Caplin

"Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, 'Out of his **heart** will flow rivers of living water.'" John 7:38  
ESV

The power of The Holy Spirit flows through your heart into the lives of others.

So. Imagine a weak, worn out, or inferior capacitor carrying high voltage power. You get boom!

Yes, we must surrender the fullness of our hearts and clothe ourselves with Christ. Nothing more and nothing less. For anything wrapped in Christ cannot fail, fall, or go boom!

# Assassination of Character

As I've written before, when Paul is writing in Romans 11 about the olive tree and the ingrafted branches ... the fruit, the olives on the tree of Jesus ... are the character of the believers. In union with the olive tree, your character in Christ is nourished simply by **REMAINING** and **RESTING** in the roots of the tree. You don't create this character of the new creation, Jesus does as **YOU** abide and receive His nutrients.

Yet. As your character (olive) is pressed by love, heart birthed desire, the world, persecution, or your own circumstance, that's where olive oil – or the Holy Spirit flows from. From your character, good works flow like oil.

It's out of one's **FAITH** and **CHARACTER** that both healing and miracles flow.

In fact, many people want to walk in the miraculous, but they don't see the full picture. The Holy Spirit cannot pour through you that which your character (morality) cannot support, or you'd be crushed under the weight of the responsibility.

Character is everything.

## Alan Caplin

Unknowingly, this is why evil uses people to falsely assassinate one's character. It's not so much to tarnish the public reputation as it is to squish that minister's view of self. Yes, the intent is to undermine the character within the minister.

If evil can shave away the character **WITHIN** an individual, you can kill off or frost freeze the fruit.

Why?

It's like this. If that minister argues back, fights with people, defends himself, gets angry, takes things personally, or even takes cheap shots at others ... character (morality) is compromised. Miracles wane, healing slows.

Evil **WANTS** to get **YOU** into arguments, and frankly it **DESIRES** you to draw ministers into hostile territory. You become the agent of burnout, apathy, and the exit of ministry.

I'd simply say this. Before you judge a minister/ministry because you don't like what they teach or you just don't agree with all that they say ... look at the character or fruit, not the doctrine.

Otherwise, the kingdom suffers. Don't be a character killer.

## My Brother

At the airport today I was wearing my NY Yankees jersey and some guy walked past me wearing a Yankees hat.

Yes. We did the obligatory head nod, and recognized the awesomeness of what is Yankees baseball.

He then tells me that his brother is Aaron Hicks - the Yankees center fielder. Which, I thought was pretty darn cool.

Until he walked away and God spoke to my spirit.

This guy leaving the Yankees spring training complex was bragging and soaking all this personal energy into his brother's name. Yes. Leaning on what his brother has accomplished. The dude probably wasn't even a Yankees fan until his brother struck it big there.

How come we as believers don't do the same thing?

Our brother is the king of the universe and holds time in His hands.

Yes. We should be name dropping Jesus, and healing others in that same power just to show off who we know.

**Alan Caplin**

My response to him should of been, "That's cool, but my brother is Jesus the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Let me pray for you and show you."

For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one source. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brothers ...

Hebrews 2:11 ESV

# Sovereignty of God

As I've written before, God isn't fully 100% sovereign in this earth. God has **NO** ability to alter the free will of mankind, there's a god of this world, from the day we are born our bodies outwardly decay, and we live in a fallen system.

So, since God isn't fully in control .... I should panic? Right?

I mean, I need to go grab the bull by the horns because it's up to me to take care of me, right?

Wrong.

From a place of surrender, and **FULL** 100% trust .... we choose to make God sovereign over our lives.

Sovereignty is something we give **TO GOD**.

When we come to surrender. When we choose God as Lord over our everything - that's when God can finally stop opposing us and move fully on our behalf.

From our free will of surrender, we yield to the full will of God. We literally put God in charge and in control. We let God drive.

## Alan Caplin

Yes. When we do things our way, how we want, and rely on self ... to some degree God **HAS TO OPPOSE US**. Our way is pride. His way is life and peace.

Trust God. Yield sovereignty.

But he gives more grace. Therefore it says, "God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble." James 4:6 ESV

# Everything Explained

So, Jesus says He is the Messiah. So, Jesus says He will explain everything to us. And inexplicably many grace people want to ignore everything Jesus said.

This approach explains much misunderstanding:

- Preterism
- Universalism
- Inclusionism
- No devil
- No hell
- No works
- No giftings
- No power
- No disciples today

So on and so forth.

The words in red were spoken by The One who will judge all of mankind (John 5:22). Yep. They might be important.

The woman said, “I know that Messiah” (called Christ) “is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.” Then Jesus declared, “I, the one speaking to you—I am he.” John 4:25-26 ESV



Alan Caplin

# Christ In You

Today someone posted on their page that they find the term “Christ in you” as odd and they just can’t relate to it. And that’s ok. We are where we are.

But. Like always, I went to the word.

And, as always, the Bible amazes me. The small things, the “ah ha” light bulb moments, and the major revelatory things.

Well. Again. God flattened me.

Peep Colossians 1:27-28 ESV:

- Verse 27 refers to “Christ In You”
- Verse 28 refers to maturity.

Until you realize Christ dwells in you, you can’t move into spiritual maturity. To deny Christ in you, is to deny absolutely everything you are purposed to be.

In fact, as I write this The Lord reminded me, it’s more than just Christ *in* you. It’s the Spirit of Christ or The Holy Spirit in you. It’s **HIS SPIRIT IN US**. And, that Spirit not only dwells in our inner man, but also in our hearts through faith (Eph 3:16-17).

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

“To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. Him we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone with all wisdom, that we may present everyone mature in Christ.” Colossians 1:27-28 ESV

Alan Caplin

# Peter's Prayer

Peter wasn't God. Peter was a fisherman by trade. He was no different than us, and was empowered by both the same grace and same Jesus. Moreover, Peter was certainly no more or less messed up than I am!

Peter told a guy who was paralyzed for 8 years. "Aeneas, Jesus Christ heals you; rise and make your bed." And immediately he rose. Acts 9:34 ESV

Peter said to a **DEAD** little girl, "Tabitha, arise." And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter she sat up. Acts 9:40 ESV

Folks. These aren't long prayers. These aren't hours of wailing and wrestling.

These are short, simple, power filled breaths of faith.

My prayer for 2021, is to see healing with a simple command, "be healed."

Peeps. That's all we need.

Belief.

# Blood Covenant: Tip

Bible Tip.

- In Christ
- In Christ Jesus
- In Him
- In Me
- With Christ

All covenant language.

Many verses make much more sense in this rightful context.

In covenant, means everything!

Jesus **IS** the covenant (Isaiah 42:6; 49:8). Jesus entered heaven once, and we enter this blood covenant **ONCE** through belief from the heart (Romans 10:10).

Nope. You **CANNOT** ever fall out of this covenant. Or. The covenant (Jesus) isn't worth anything.

"For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive." 1 Corinthians 15:22 ESV

Alan Caplin

# Maturity in Christ

Let's get something straight, the only one who gets to brag in heaven (if He so chooses) is Jesus.

This is exactly why our development in Christ isn't a competition or even a process. It's an event. An event that was done finished 2,000 years ago.

We awaken to who we already are in Christ. We come to realize that what God has said about us in Christ is actually true.

Yes. We each mature at different rates, but this visible maturity is an expression of what's already a God given truth.

Folks. A baby doesn't become more "personier" as the little tot matures, and sons don't become more and more holy as they too mature. The baby is a full fledged person or human being, and the son in Christ is already holy (set apart).

We move deeper into the already existent truth of identity.

I have friends who are half my age and as twice as advanced. Do they get to brag? No.

## DASHBOARD BUTTONS

I have friends who are 30 years older than me and are half as advanced. Do I get to brag? No.

We have had different speeds of personal revelation, and it very likely has been at the exact pace God foreknew. Yes. Jesus can brag.

In fact. Saying that sanctification is a process is an excuse to stay stuck in the said process. "Well, I'm trying to get there brother."

Trying to get closer to Jesus or trying to mature as fast as one can - is flat out works. Growing as led by spirit, is a work of Jesus Himself.

We awaken to what's already been accomplished. Otherwise, it's not yet been done finished (Hebrews 4:3). We are walking out our spiritual growth in Christ from the place of our already being there - otherwise Jesus isn't who **HE** says **HE** is.

We work from what's been done, not working towards our getting it done.

Huh?

Jesus **IS** our:  
Wisdom  
Righteousness  
Sanctification  
Redemption

## Alan Caplin

Jesus **IS** our everything, and we grow into who **JESUS** already is! If Jesus is still figuring out who He is, we are all in trouble. Simply. We are awakening to who Jesus **ALREADY** is ... dwelling **WITHIN** us.

God chose what is low and despised in the world, even things that are not, to bring to nothing things that are, so that no human being might boast in the presence of God. And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption, so that, as it is written, "Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord."

1 Corinthians 1:28-31 ESV

# Forgive Them

If Jesus shed His own blood for the remission of **ALL** sin.

If Jesus is the final judge of all people for all time.

Why did He ask *The Father* to forgive those who sent Him to die on the cross?

And Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Luke 23:34 ESV

The Father was about to come judge the nation of Israel for rejecting the Messiah.

Yes.

Jesus was crucified and He knew The Temple would fall, the people were to be massacred and scattered, and that Jerusalem would be trampled under control of the Gentiles for the next 1900+ years.

As Jesus took His last breath, Jesus was thinking about the terrible and painful things that were about to happen to his friends, family, and nay sayers.

Bless those who curse you.

Bless those who don't understand you.

Bless those who fail you.

Be Jesus to those who need Jesus.



# Soul Protection

This will fry your brain.

The Holy Spirit just showed me that the Armor of God protects your **SOUL**! Remember, the soul realm has two primary engines that drive our conscious and sub conscious thinking – the heart and mind.

And the fractured **SOUL** (those mismatched thoughts between the heart and mind) is the main entry point for much sickness, disease, and foul spirit. Yes, as we:

- co labor
- actively partner with Christ
- trust The Lord with all our heart
- renew the thoughts of our hearts and minds

and align ourselves with what is **TRUE**, despite what our eyes see ...

All of these **OFFENSIVE** (not defensive) weapons are Jesus Himself as **HE** guards our hearts and minds!

Folks. A guarded soul, is a protected body!

# Rubik's Cube

There is so much confusion in the body of Christ, and sometimes I wonder:

- What if the bible were written in bullet points?
- What if Paul didn't write in run on sentences?
- What if the bible were written originally in English?
- What if God edited the bible to eliminate **ALL** potential points of confusion?
- What if Jesus didn't speak about things hidden in parables?
- What if Matthew and Luke didn't copy and add on to the account of Mark?

Then, I realized.

True riches are hidden for those who desire to be wealthy. Yes, the things of God aren't hidden from us, they are hidden for us.

The gospel of the kingdom is a heart knowledge, not a head knowledge. And this knowledge is beyond a human cognitive knowing that can only be sought out with the passion of the heart.

We seek God with an unveiled heart, and earnestly desire to know Him deeper.

If everything were simple and clear:

- You wouldn't be curious.

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- You wouldn't be hungry.
- You wouldn't desire.
- You wouldn't seek.
- You wouldn't search the depths of God.
- You wouldn't be walking **FROM** a place of faith.
- You wouldn't need the other members of the body of Christ.

And ...

You would sit under **GREATER** accountability (yes, judgment) for **NOT** doing what you **KNEW** you should be doing.

As a friend of mine said recently, the bible is like a Rubik's cube. It can be solved if you spend time learning how the pieces all move or fit together. But far too many people are ok with an incomplete puzzle.

Which is a heart issue.

Proverbs 25:2 ESV

It is the glory of God to conceal things,  
but the glory of kings is to search things out.

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