

# Good News!

## How to Live

*"Be of good courage,  
and He shall strengthen your heart,  
all you who hope in the Lord."  
Psalm 31:24*

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What a crazy world we live in.  
When you think things have finally calmed down,  
another crisis happens.

The **news** keeps going from bad to worse to worst.

- The media is saturated with images of innocent people, including many American citizens, trapped in Afghanistan under terrorist rule.
- Testimonies of Christians being persecuted and martyred are horrific and abounding.
- People around me are dying from Covid (again).
- Over two million undocumented immigrants have entered the country this year via our southern borders (more than 200,000 in July alone), with 40% testing positive for covid-19.
- The CDC Director reported this week that three new studies reveal the efficacy of the vaccines has significantly dropped, and its effectiveness is waning.
- Despite that, people are being forced to choose between keeping their jobs and taking the experimental treatment.

- To top it off, the Department of Homeland Security has more than hinted at considering those who oppose Covid-19 mandates and restrictions as domestic terrorists. (Wherever you stand on the vaccines, I trust we can all agree that such a declaration establishes a dangerous and deadly precedent on many fronts.)

Is there any **good news**?

As people have shared with me these real and relevant concerns, I've experienced a range of emotions from anger to frustration to helplessness to feeling so overwhelmed that I want to check out and try to forget it all.

I'm glad I don't drink. ([Read why here](#)) It doesn't solve the problem, anyway. We inevitably wake up the next day, and the issue still exists. As the saying goes, "Wherever you go, there you are."

But we know who is with us wherever we go, right?

***"Where can I go from Your Spirit?  
Or where can I flee from Your presence?  
If I ascend into heaven, You are there;  
if I make my bed in hell, behold, You are there.  
If I take the wings of the morning,  
and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea,  
even there Your hand shall lead me,  
and Your right hand shall hold me."  
Psalm 139:7-10***

No one can escape God.

No matter where I go, His hand shall lead me and hold me. This is a **comforting** reminder. For those who love God, that is. For those who don't however, hearing that you cannot escape Him may send a frightening chill through the bones. Indeed, for the unbeliever, ***"it's a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God."*** **Hebrews 10:31.**

If you haven't surrendered your life to Jesus yet, please do.  
([Let me introduce you to Him here](#))

Back to feeling hopeless and overwhelmed. In the midst of all the world's turmoil this week, the question I kept asking was, "*What can I do? How do I live in the midst of all this?*"

Certainly prayer is the first step of action, and I'm committed to that. The effective, fervent prayer of the righteous **avails much**. ([Read more here](#)) Yet, as I've prayed about all the issues of our day—and there are many—I've found myself asking, still exasperated,

*"What else? How shall we live?"*

It seems throughout all history, in any situation, regardless of the degree or intensity of difficulty, there's one thing we can actively do that offers **lasting hope** to others: Share the **good news** about Jesus.

**Jesus is the Savior of the world.  
He is the hope of all nations!  
He heals, understands, and gives hope.**

***He brings good tidings to the poor,  
heals the brokenhearted,  
proclaims liberty to the captives,  
opens the prison to those who are bound,  
comforts and consoles those who mourn.***

**He gives us beauty for ashes,  
the oil of joy for mourning,  
and a garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness.**  
*(Isaiah 53, Psalm 61, Matthew 12:21)*

**This is great news!**

**In the name of Jesus all nations will  
place their hope. At His name every  
knee will bow and tongue confess Him  
as Lord—of those above the earth, on  
the earth, and beneath the earth.**

*(Matthew 12:21, Philippians 2:10-11)*

People around the globe are losing **hope**. Common sense is disregarded as fear runs rampant. The government is a constant disappointment, employers are betraying employees, laws and mandates have failed us, masks didn't prove to protect as promised, the vaccine isn't keeping its word. All these things (and more) have let us down. *But Jesus hasn't.*

***Why are you cast down, O my soul?  
And why are you disquieted within me?  
Hope in God; for I shall yet praise Him,  
the help of my countenance and my God.  
Psalm 42:11***

If the human soul is downcast and forlorn, it's likely an indication of misplaced **expectation**. By the end of the day, putting our **faith** in anything or anyone other than Jesus Himself will bring one big let down after another.

Where is your **hope**?  
In what or whom have you placed your **trust**?

## **CHALLENGE**

Everybody is impacted by what's going on in the world right now. Everyone. Regardless of opinion, perspective, experience, social status, political stance, race, or religion. We all feel it and see it. It affects every area of our lives, whether at the grocery store, doctor's office, job, church or school. Inflation continues, home prices have skyrocketed, and we're being warned that terrorist attacks are now likely on 9-11 or early September during Rosh Hashana.

Do you know what else affects every person? Sin. There is only one religion that deals with the issue of sin, and it's Christianity. No other belief system **solves this problem**. Only One does, and He is Truth.  
*He is reality.* His name is Jesus.

How would *He* say to live? What would *He* tell us to do? It's possible He'd answer our question with a question:

*“What are you doing to share Me with others today,  
right where you are?”*

Sharing Jesus with others is the best way to offer them **hope**, and it is not bound by limitation. With the Lord, we can have **unshakable peace** in the midst of the worst situation. What if each of us witnesses to one person a day about our amazing God?

Text it, email it, post it, write it, speak it.  
The world desperately needs **salvation**,  
and our only saving hope is Jesus Christ.

Send a card in the mail,  
bless the cashier in Jesus' name,  
pray for someone right then and there as they share a concern,  
tell the online chat person who's helping you with technical support how much Jesus loves them.  
Recommend a good Christian movie.  
Say something nice to a stranger, and ask if they know the Lord.  
Then share Him.

I realize most of you already do this. I'll also admit that I fail often, realizing later that I'd missed an opportunity. And then, dare I ask,

*Will doing these things even make a difference?*

Will telling my UPS driver that Jesus loves him deliver the 10 year old girl out of sex trafficking? Not likely in this moment, and probably not directly. God is **faithful** and is dealing with the atrocities of sin; all our wrongs will one day be reckoned with, and His justice will prevail. That fact may not make us feel better in the moment, but it is true, and truth always wins in the end.

That said, may I propose something?  
It actually *is* possible that, if every single Christian in the world intentionally and **courageously** shared Jesus with someone every day, the world's tragedies *would* **change for the better**.

Before you scoff, reread that, and consider the impact.  
We'd be much farther along than we are now.

We recently watched a fantastic movie, *Heaven's War*.  
(Consider watching it, taking into account its portrayal of  
angels/demons and its recommendation for ages  
13+. [Watch options here](#) )

In various scenes of the movie, an angel who is sent to  
minister to the main character reveals how every thought,  
word, and action has a ripple effect. We can easily forget  
how powerful our seemingly small actions can be. ([Read  
last month's writing about that here](#))

*Heaven's War* also depicts the reality of the battle between  
good and evil that takes place in the "heavenly places"  
(think about that-- Ephesians 6:12) as we make choices  
here on earth. We can be deceived into thinking that little  
ol' me makes no difference in this massive world, but that's  
simply not true.

So, if there's anything I can do that will **swing a  
successful punch** at the enemy, I'll do it. Offering Jesus  
to others is a powerful way to do just that.

How now do we live?

Spread the **Gospel of Jesus Christ**. It is **good news**.

***"Nor is there salvation in any other,  
for there is no other name under heaven  
given among men by which we must be  
saved." Acts 4:12***

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