

A scroll with a light brown, parchment-like texture. The scroll is unrolled, showing a central rectangular area with text. The edges of the scroll are slightly frayed and have small holes. The scroll is held together by four orange, braided cords at the corners. The text is centered on the scroll.

Declarations

Written by Michael C. Evans

Inspired by God

My 5 Core Beliefs

I feel that God has given me **5 Core Beliefs** I need to share with people. I don't expect everyone to agree with my beliefs, but I can tell you that these beliefs have increased my personal relationship with God and brought me closer to him. In this Declaration, I will briefly introduce each Core Belief, and my intent is to then go into more detail with each Core Belief at a later time. So let's start.

1. God is Love, Unconditional Love.

This by far is the most important belief I have. It is the foundation of my being, my existence. I have Faith that God exists and that God is Love. It is from this foundation that all of my Actions are derived, thus making me a Believer. I don't hope that God is Love, I Believe that God is Love based on my Faith and my Actions. I act as though God is Love, and his Love is Unconditional. God's Love is not based on how I act, what I believe, what I say or what I think. God loves me in spite of any faults I may have. Once I accepted that God is Unconditional Love, I then embraced my personal relationship with him. My close personal relationship with God is evidenced by the Unconditional Love I have with other people and nature. I try to mirror God's Unconditional Love. Imagine if we all did that: had Unconditional Love for each other. That is the movement: to help each person have a closer personal relationship with God and to reflect his Unconditional Love. I am by no means at the point I desire in my relationships with people and being able to show Unconditional Love, but that is my goal and it continues to draw me closer to God.

2. God is not human, and therefore does not have human characteristics.

This belief is very important to me and it goes back to the definition that God is Love, Unconditional Love. Many religions assign human characteristics to God when God is far from human. If God is Love, then God cannot be jealous, or vengeful, or angry. God does not choose sides, or favor one group of people over another group of people. God does not have human emotions or characteristics. Just the opposite; God is all powerful, all knowing and everywhere simultaneously. These are characteristics that humans don't possess. These are spiritual characteristics. Unconditional Love is a spiritual characteristic.

I believe that it's important not to attribute human ideas and human ways of thinking to God. God is of the spiritual existence, and we as humans must recognize that our physical existence

is not our true reality, but rather we are spiritual beings here as human beings (more about this later). When we acknowledge that God does not have human characteristics and stop assigning human emotions and human thinking to God, then we are able to focus on the spiritual characteristics of God: the Unconditional Love definition. Do not develop your personal relationship with God based on the fear of God's wrath or judgment. That is simply a tactic used to control the behavior and actions of the masses. Instead develop your close personal relationship with God based on God's Unconditional Love. Believe me; it will change your perspective on things and your life.

3. The Soul/Spirit is of God, and like God, it has always existed and will always continue to exist.

This belief gets to the essence of our relationship with God, which is a spiritual relationship. I use the terms Soul and Spirit interchangeably (which will drive some people crazy, such as my wife). I am referring to that part inside of each of us that comes directly from God. I believe that each Soul/Spirit existed before we were born as human beings and that upon each person's death, the Soul/Spirit continues to exist. The Soul/Spirit has spiritual characteristics like God. I believe that each Soul/Spirit has always existed in the same way that God has always existed and each Soul/Spirit will always exist, like God. I believe the concept of time as we experience it as human beings doesn't apply in the spiritual existence (I will cover this in more detail in a future Declaration). The Soul/Spirit has the ability to show Unconditional Love; Godly Love. It is the Soul/Spirit that draws closer or away from God. When we understand this and Believe this, we can interact with God in the spiritual existence (some call it interacting with the Holy Spirit) to affect our behavior, thoughts, actions and words on a daily basis, for it is through these that we reflect God's Unconditional Love.

4. We are spiritual beings here on earth as human beings, for just a fraction of our Soul's/Spirit's existence.

When you have Faith and Believe that you are a spiritual being first and foremost, who has a close personal relationship with God in the spiritual existence, then you are able to keep things in perspective. You are able to understand that your life as a human being is temporary by design. When you Believe that your Soul/Spirit is eternal like God, then your human life is but an infinitely small fraction of your Soul's/Spirit's existence. This allows you to not sweat the small stuff, and it's all small compared to your close personal relationship with God.

There is no emotional, mental, physical or financial pain or suffering that you experience as a human being that can damage your Soul/Spirit and your close personal relationship with God.

This gives you the power to endure all things, for everything in your human life is just for a season. And when it comes to things that can damage your Soul/Spirit and affect how far or near you are to God, those things only have the ability and authority that you give them to affect your Soul/Spirit. You then understand that you are in total control of your close personal relationship with God based on the decisions you make every day. And no matter what decisions you make, right or wrong, God still Loves you unconditionally and God still wants that close personal relationship with you.

5. Good and Evil, Heaven and Hell, are states of being, and reflect how close or far we are to God.

This last belief will probably be the most controversial and many people will have a hard time Believing it (having Faith in it and Acting as if it is so). When you reflect back on the first four beliefs, you will see that God Loves you unconditionally no matter what you do and that you have the freedom as a spiritual being to make whatever decisions you want. Many religions use the concepts of heaven and hell as a reward for good behavior (heaven) and a punishment for bad behavior (hell). Again, this is assigning human logic and behavior to God, when God does not have human characteristics.

Remember, God is Love, Unconditional Love. Therefore, good and bad, heaven and hell, are spiritual states of being that reflect how close or far we are from reflecting that Unconditional Love. Unfortunately, many religions use heaven and hell to control the behaviors and actions of the masses. If you focus on reflecting God's Unconditional Love, you will experience "Heaven on Earth". We have to keep in mind that the road travelled to get to the destination is just as important as the destination itself. How we arrive at our behavior (through fear of punishment or through the desire to reflect God's Love) is as important as the behavior itself.

I hope that my **5 Core Beliefs** give you some food for thought on how to have a closer personal relationship with God. God bless you and remember to **Believe It, Declare It and Do It!**

God's Unconditional Love

God is Love. What a simple, but powerful, statement. What a clear definition. One word that summarizes what God is: **Love**. But what is Love, and specifically, what is Unconditional Love? The dictionary states that "Love is to feel tender affection for someone, to like something very much." Psychology Today writes "Love is a force of nature. However, much we may want to, we cannot command, demand, or disappear love. Love is inherently free." Love is hard to define, let alone Unconditional Love as it relates to God. But we can start to understand God's Unconditional Love when we reflect on God's spiritual characteristics.

God created Love in the same way that God created everything. So why did God create Love? What's the purpose of God's Unconditional Love? I believe that God created Unconditional Love as a means to have an eternal relationship with each of us. God Loves us because we are of God, and God is part of us. God Loves us because of, and through our Soul/Spirit. I imagine that the closest thing to understanding God's Unconditional Love is the experience that a mother goes through upon giving birth to a child. The Love she feels for someone who comes from her, which she created. God gave birth to our Souls/Spirits; God Loves our Souls/Spirits.

God's Unconditional Love is amazing! God Loves us by choice, not by mandate or obligation. God's Love for us is not dependent on what we think, how we behave, or whether we are "good" or "evil". It's not even dependent on whether we show God love in return. God's Love is pure. God shows us Love because God chooses to show us Love. How wonderful and overwhelming is that; that God decides to show us Love purely by choice? Once you realize the magnitude of this fact (God Loves us Unconditionally), your whole perspective on things will change.

You will realize that because God has Unconditional Love for us, God is not to be feared. Why would you ever fear anyone that has Unconditional Love for you? God is not vengeful; God will never harm us; God protects us because God Loves us. Those who have twisted the image of God by giving God human characteristics (vengeful, jealous, angry, punishing, to be feared) don't truly understand the essence of God; God is Unconditional Love. Don't allow other people's misperception and misunderstanding of God effect your understanding and experience with God.

God wants to have a close personal loving spiritual relationship with each and every one of us. God's Unconditional Love is always present; it never leaves us. We get to make the choice whether or not to embrace God's Unconditional Love. Our Spirit/Soul is constantly in God's

Unconditional Love, but we get to choose how our Spirit/Soul interacts with God's Unconditional Love. We can choose to fight God's Unconditional Love and pull away from God, or we can choose to bask in God's Unconditional Love by drawing closer to him; the choice is yours. Once we understand and take responsibility for the choice we have whether to accept and embrace God's Unconditional Love, then we can start to understand the close personal relationship we can have with God.

God interacts with our Spirit/Soul because we are spiritual beings, first and foremost. The Spirit/Soul, like God, has always existed and will continue to exist; it cannot be destroyed. So our relationship with God exceeds our human experience, as the Spirit/Soul had a relationship with God prior to our birth and will continue to have a relationship with God far after our death. Because of this, it is **NEVER** too late to decide to have a close personal relationship with God through his Unconditional Love.

We have to keep things in perspective by not focusing on reality from our human perspective, but rather focus on reality from our spiritual perspective. Too many times we get caught up in being human; try being caught up being spiritual. God's Unconditional Love protects the Spirit/Soul from all harm. There is nothing in this world that can harm us physically, emotionally, mentally, financially or otherwise that will harm our Spirit/Soul, and the only things that can harm us spiritually are those things that we give authority to do so. Through God's Unconditional Love we have the choice to embrace God's Love and wear it like a shield over our Spirit/Soul. All you have to do is choose to do it.

So choose to embrace God's Unconditional Love and to have a close personal relationship with God. God's Unconditional Love is always present and God is always communicating with you. Some call it "intuition", your "sixth sense", that "gut feeling". I call it the Holy Spirit. God speaks to us through everything around and in us. God's Word is always present. God's Word is not limited to writings assembled in the 66 books of the bible. God continues to speak to each and every one of us. All we have to do is stop, listen and embrace God's Unconditional Love.

As always, Believe It, Declare it and Do! God Bless You!

Spiritual Authority

Do you know that God gives you **Spiritual Authority**? Do you know what Spiritual Authority is? It is the authority that God has given each and every one of us. God gives our Spirit/Soul authority over spiritual matters because the Spirit/Soul is of God. Some would say that the Spirit/Soul is God. God has authority over all things and God allows our Spirit/Soul to have spiritual authority in our lives.

But what is Spiritual Authority and how do we **embrace it, activate it and exercise it**? I define Spiritual Authority as the ability to command and demand how your Spirit/Soul experiences life. We are spiritual beings first and foremost, as the Spirit/Soul has always existed and will continue to exist after we die as human beings. So though we are currently in human form, this is not our natural state of being. Though we have experiences from a human perspective and interact with this physical reality, the spiritual reality still exists simultaneously. The question is which reality do you choose to focus your efforts on.

I have stated before that when you come to understand that God has Unconditional Love for you that is always present and never changes, it can have a profound effect on your life. I realized in 2013 that there is nothing in the physical reality that can harm my Spirit/Soul. No matter how much emotional, mental, physical or financial pain and suffering I experience as a human being, it doesn't harm my Spirit/Soul, because my Spirit/Soul exists in the spiritual reality. So what then can harm your Spirit/Soul?

I do believe that there are objects and beings that can harm our Spirit/Soul, and when I say harm, I mean move us away from God's Unconditional Love. This is where embracing Spiritual Authority comes into play. We embrace our Spiritual Authority by believing in God's Unconditional Love. We make choices everyday of how we are going to think, how we are going to behave, how we are going to act and what we are going to speak. It is through these four activities (**thought, behavior, action, and speech**) that we activate and express our Spiritual Authority in both the spiritual and physical reality.

We can allow our human emotions to dictate our thoughts (fear, guilt, anger, jealousy, etc.) or we can choose to focus on God's Unconditional Love. When we focus on God's Unconditional Love, we embrace the Spiritual Authority God has given our Spirit/Soul. When we allow our human emotions to dictate our thoughts, we give away that Spiritual Authority and allow other forces (both spiritual and human) to have authority over our thinking. Keeping our thoughts on God's Unconditional Love is the first step in activating your Spiritual Authority.

Once your thoughts are aligned with God's Love, now you can reflect God's Unconditional Love through your behavior. You've embraced your Spiritual Authority, now you must **activate** and **exercise** it. Many people say that they believe God will protect them, but they don't behave as though they believe it. I find this to be the most challenging aspect of Spiritual Authority because we are not taught to activate and exercise the Spiritual Authority that God has given our Spirit/Soul. If you don't have the knowledge of and understand your Spiritual Identity/Purpose and that God gives your Spirit/Soul Spiritual Authority, you will give your Spiritual Authority away rather than **embracing it, activating it and exercising it**.

You **embrace** your Spiritual Authority when you believe in God's Unconditional Love. You **activate** your Spiritual Authority in the way you think and behave. You **exercise** your Spiritual Authority in your actions and words. When you exercise your Spiritual Authority, you walk in the confidence of God's Unconditional Love. It's undeniable to everyone who interacts with you. Some will say that you're cocky or arrogant, but that's alright. They don't fully understand the Spiritual Authority given to you (and them) through God's Unconditional Love. So exercise your Spiritual Authority in everything you do and definitely in everything you say, which is the last part of Spiritual Authority.

I have struggled to fully comprehend the impact that the words we speak have on both our spiritual and physical realities. I have experienced the power of the spoken word by believing in something, speaking it out loud and having the effects of what I spoke manifest itself in my physical reality. The first time it happened to me it was a little frightening because what I spoke came into existence (despite all odds). I do know that we have to be careful what we speak and how we speak it. When you truly believe something (whether good or bad) and you speak it out loud with authority, it is more than likely to come into existence in the physical world.

Now that you understand that you have Spiritual Authority, what are you going to do with it? I suggest that you use your Spiritual Authority to reach your Spiritual Destiny/Purpose. God has given each and everyone us spiritual gifts to help people overcome and address the human and spiritual challenges we face. When we use God's spiritual gifts to assist others with their challenges, we generate two rewards: one reward for the person for whom we are solving the challenge and another reward for ourselves. We receive both spiritual and physical rewards when we help others overcome challenges. So recognize your Spiritual Authority, use it to realize your Spiritual Destiny/Purpose by helping others and see the rewards that are created for you and those you help.

Remember: Believe It, Declare It, and Do it! God Bless You!

Spiritual Gifts & Purposes

You are capable of great things spiritually, but you have to embrace God's Unconditional Love, activate your Spiritual Authority by your thoughts, behavior, and exercise your Spiritual Authority by your actions and words. Your purpose is bigger than just existing. **God wants you to Thrive!** Know yourself and let the Holy Spirit show you your **Spiritual Purpose**. Don't be afraid of what the Holy Spirit shows you.

God gives each of us a set of **Spiritual Gifts**. These Spiritual Gifts are talents and abilities that are bestowed upon our Spirit/Soul. Some may call them natural gifts or abilities. Whatever you want to call them, they are given to you by God. What you do with them and how you use them are up to you. God gives each of us free will to make choices about your Spiritual Gifts. So how do you know what are your Spiritual Gifts?

Others tend to recognize our Spiritual Gifts when we are children. They'll say we have a talent for a certain thing, we do something well, or that we are "a natural" at something. When my son Xavier was a young child around 5 or 6, he had the ability to double numbers in his head (2, 4, 8, 16, etc.) all the way up to 16,384. At this young age he also had the ability to add numbers greater than 10 in his head, but he would add them from left to right, like he was reading. Both of these gifts were God given, as neither I nor his mother ever taught him those things. I recognized that these were Spiritual Gifts my son had.

Most of the time we don't focus on developing our Spiritual Gifts. Many times we don't even recognize our Spiritual Gifts, or we are discouraged from using and developing them. The American culture discourages you from being "different" and encourages and rewards those who conform to the norm. Our educational system (along with most institutional systems) promotes that children learn in a uniform manner and children who don't learn that way are diagnosed with "diseases" such as Attention Deficit Disorder" or other mental illnesses. American culture doesn't promote (nor reward) taking the time to recognize that we are all individual spiritual beings first and foremost. As such, we each are unique with our own way of learning and expressing ourselves. Too often our Spiritual Gifts go undeveloped and become dormant. They stay that way until (and unless) we awaken them.

The first step to awakening your Spiritual Gifts and realizing your Spiritual Purpose is to understand what a Spiritual Gift is. I define a Spiritual Gift as "The ability to perform an action that provides a solution to a challenge that someone is facing." Here are some examples:

- God blesses you with a beautiful voice that brings comfort to people when their feeling sad, down and out.
- God blesses you with charisma to lead people.
- God blesses you with the ability to comprehend complex math and science subjects so you can develop medical cures.

There are so many types of Spiritual Gifts that they are too numerous to list, but I believe that each and every one of us has been blessed by God with at least one Spiritual Gift, and many of us have more than one. Ask the people around you what they believe is your Spiritual Gift. What talent do they recognize in you that, when you use it, affects people? You may be surprised by their answers.

Once you realize your Spiritual Gifts, the next step is deciding if you're going to use them, and how are you going to use them. God gives us free will, so we decide if we will even use our Spiritual Gifts. Most of us don't use our Spiritual Gifts even if we recognize that we have them. Many times this is due to our human emotions (fear, uncertainty, or low self-esteem) dictating our thoughts, behaviors, actions and words. When we Believe and embrace God's Unconditional Love and exercise our Spiritual Authority, we can maximize the positive effects of our Spiritual Gifts.

God also gives us the authority to choose how we use our Spiritual Gifts. We can choose to use them to provide solutions to people's challenges, or we can use them against people or to take advantage of them. How you use your Spiritual Gifts is more important than the Spiritual Gift itself. I believe it is better to never use a Spiritual Gift than to use it to bring harm to someone.

How you use your Spiritual Gifts reflects your **Spiritual Purpose**. Everyone has a Spiritual Purpose. The question is recognizing and understanding what is your Spiritual Purpose. Listen to the Holy Spirit and it will speak to your Soul/Spirit. It will reveal your Spiritual Gifts and your Spiritual Purpose. All you have to do is be still, listen and choose to be guided.

What do you choose? I pray that you choose to Believe in God's Unconditional Love, exercise your Spiritual Authority through your actions and words, let the Holy Spirit guide how you on how to use your Spiritual Gifts so that you may realize and fulfill the Spiritual Purpose God has for you.

Remember: Believe It, Declare It, and Do It! God Bless You!

Be a Solution Provider

You will be spiritually rewarded when you embrace your ability to provide solutions to people's challenges. Most people's challenges are rooted in a spiritual imbalance in their life. They are usually facing an emotionally-based challenge. Notice I used the word challenge rather than problem. I don't subscribe to the belief of problems. I choose to Believe that there are challenges we face from time to time. The thing about challenges is that there is always an opportunity for a reward associated with every challenge. We all have God given **Spiritual Gifts** to assist people in finding the opportunities in their challenges. I define the use of your Spiritual Gifts as your **Spiritual Purpose**. We each have a Spiritual Purpose, so how do you go about understanding what is your Spiritual Purpose and fulfilling it?

Once you Believe in **God's Unconditional Love**, embrace and exercise your **Spiritual Authority**, recognize your **Spiritual Gifts**, and choose to use those gifts as guided by the Holy Spirit, then your **Spiritual Purpose** will be revealed. The key to understanding your Spiritual Purpose is allowing the Holy Spirit to guide the way you use your Spiritual Gifts. This is accomplished through meditating, praying, and declaring out loud for God to bring the Holy Spirit to interact and guide our Spirit/Soul. God is constantly speaking to us through various methods including through other people, through nature, and through the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit speaks directly to our Soul/Spirit. Some call it your sixth sense, your intuition, or your gut. Many times we ignore the Holy Spirit when it speaks to us. So what happens when we take the time to be still, reflect, and pray to God?

When we listen to the Holy Spirit and let it guide our thoughts, we will change our behavior. We are then empowered to exercise our Spiritual Authority and use our Spiritual Gifts. Let the Holy Spirit guide how you use your Spiritual Gifts. The Holy Spirit will show you how your Spiritual Gifts provide solutions for other people's challenges. When you provide solutions to people's challenges using your Spiritual Gifts as guided by the Holy Spirit, you create rewards for both you and the person you help.

I pray that you continue to develop a close personal relationship with God. I pray that you choose to allow the Holy Spirit to guide how you use your Spiritual Gifts. I Declare that if you do these things, God will not only reward the person you provide the solution to, but God will also reward you. So choose to be a Solution Provider.

Remember: Believe It, Declare It and Do It! God Bless You!

Listening for (and to) God's Word

God's Unconditional Love is always present and it's consistent. It never changes no matter what we think, how we behave, how we act, or what we speak. Just like God's Unconditional Love, God speaks to us constantly. So how does God speak to us?

God speaks to us in every facet of our lives. He speaks to us through nature such as the wind, the sun, and the rain. Have you ever taken the time to just be by yourself outside and enjoy nature? If you've ever been on a nature walk, you know how good you can feel and how freeing it can be.

God speaks to us through pets. If you have a pet, you've experienced the positive feeling that a pet brings into your life. God works through pets to show us how to take satisfaction in the simple things of life. God's Unconditional Love doesn't depend on how much money you make, or the clothes you wear or the job you have. Pets reflect God's Unconditional Love. They don't ask for much, other than your love and affection. God is speaking to you through your pets.

God speaks to us through other people. It doesn't matter if it's your best friend, your parent, your child, your co-worker, or even a stranger, God speaks to us constantly through other people, we just have to apply discernment so we can wade through the garbage people speak to find what God is speaking to us. You and another person can hear the exact words from a third person and get two completely different messages. That's because we are each unique beings with unique perspectives and with different levels of discernment. So how do you achieve that level of discernment to where you can separate the garbage from **God's Word**?

This is accomplished by allowing the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts. The Holy Spirit is God and it constantly interacts with your Soul/Spirit, which is of God. All you have to do is to be still, reflect/pray to God for the Holy Spirit to guide you, and choose to allow yourself to be guided by the Holy Spirit.

For many of us, it's hard to be still. We are so caught up in the day-to-day activities of being human that we forget that we are spiritual beings first and foremost. As such, the issues we face in this physical world are irrelevant compared to the spiritual issues our Soul/Spirit faces on a continual basis. We must take the time to be still, be quiet and allow our Soul/Spirit time to interact with God through the Holy Spirit.

Take at least 15 minutes each day to just be quiet, don't move, and just reflect on God's Unconditional Love. When you choose to focus on embracing God's Unconditional Love and you ask God to guide you through the Holy Spirit to reflect that Unconditional Love in everything you do and with everyone you interact with, your Soul/Spirit will realize peace. You will realize that no matter what pain or suffering you experience on this earth as a human being, there is no emotional, mental, physical, financial or any other kind of pain and suffering that can bring harm to your Soul/Spirit.

It is through prayer and reflection that we gain discernment, the ability to sift through the garbage that life presents us with to find the Word that God is speaking to us. Discernment is provided by God to our Soul/Spirit through the Holy Spirit. So understand how important and vital it is to be still and listen to what the Holy Spirit shows you. The Holy Spirit will never guide you wrong. When you pray, ask specifically for the Holy Spirit to provide you with discernment as you go through your day, so that you may clearly understand God's Word that is being spoken to you.

You may not understand why the Holy Spirit is guiding you in the path that it is guiding you, but as long as you Believe and embrace in God's Unconditional Love, everything is going to be alright. The Lord works in mysterious ways and many times when we are going through something we don't understand the reason why we are experiencing it. It is usually not until we come through it and are able to reflect upon it with the right mindset (via God's Unconditional Love) do we then understand why God allowed us to go through what we went through.

I pray that you allow yourself to hear God's Word. I pray that you recognize that God is always speaking to you. I pray that you ask the Holy Spirit to bless you with discernment and that you allow the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, your behavior, your actions and your words so that you may use your Spiritual Gifts and realize your Spiritual Purpose.

Remember: Believe It, Declare It, and Do It! God Bless You!

Let your Life be a Testimony

As **Believers**, we use the **Spiritual Authority** given to our Soul/Spirit as a regular part of our daily lives. God gave us freewill to choose whether or not to embrace **God's Unconditional Love** and the Spiritual Authority he offers us. Once we choose to embrace the Spiritual Authority we have, as Believers we cannot be afraid to have our life be a testament of God's Unconditional Love and the Spiritual Authority he offers each and every one of us.

The Believer's daily life is a testament to others. The Believer doesn't conform to the ways of the world and the unGodly ways of our American culture. The Believer stands in God's Unconditional Love believing there is no pain and suffering that you can experience as a human being (no type of physical, mental, emotional or financial pain or suffering) that can cause harm to your Soul/Spirit. Don't be afraid to use your Spiritual Gifts in public and among those who don't Believe. God's Unconditional Love is constant, always present and will always protect your Soul/Spirit.

You don't have to go around "witnessing" to everyone what God has done in your life and what God has brought you through (though there is nothing wrong with doing that if that is what the Holy Spirit guides you to do). When you embrace your Spiritual Authority and exercise it through the use of your Spiritual Gifts in your actions and words, everyone around you will take notice. Your actions and words plant seeds in people's lives to help bring them closer to God. It may not be your Spiritual Purpose to water that seed to help it grow within that person (the Holy Spirit will guide you), but all Believers have the Spiritual Gift to plant seeds in other people's lives.

Go about planting seeds in people's lives by your daily actions and words. Make a conscious decision (choice) each morning to experience your day in a **Positive** manner. Make a choice and commit each morning to have a **Positive** impact on someone's life (plant a seed in their life). Make a choice that when someone asks you "How are you doing?" that you choose to respond "**I am Blessed!**" because you Believe It! When you Declare It out loud, you invoke your Spiritual Authority and you influence others.

I pray that you choose to let your life be a testament of God's Unconditional Love and allow the Holy Spirit to guide the use of your Spiritual Gifts through your actions and words.

Remember: Believe It, Declare It, and Do It! God Bless You!

Do you Know or Believe?

What is knowledge? The dictionary defines knowledge as "all that can be known: all the information, facts, truths, and principles learned throughout time". To me, knowledge is simply what a group of people agree upon as true. But just because a group of people agree that something is true, does it make it so? People agreed hundreds of years ago that the world was flat. People also agreed hundreds of years ago that the Earth was the center of the universe. Just because a group of people agree on something doesn't make it true. So how do you know if something is true?

Humans have five senses that we rely on in order to experience our physical world: sight, hearing, taste, touch, and smell. We rely on our five human senses to tell our minds what we are experiencing in the physical world. The question then becomes can we rely on our five senses? Philosophers proved a long time ago that each of our senses can be fooled and the only thing you know with 100% certainty is that you exist. So if we can't rely upon our physical senses to inform us of what's "real", what can we rely on?

This is where **Believing** comes into play. To Believe is to have faith in that which is not seen, that which is not proven. The concept of Believing contradicts the concept of knowing. When you Believe, you don't rely on your senses. You rely on your experiences and your "sixth sense", your gut, your intuition. We rely upon God. So said the atheist to the Believer: "Prove to me that God exists."

That is like asking me to prove that I exist. I "know" I exist because I experience myself and that's how I know that God exists. I experience God with every thought that enters my mind. I experience God with every breath I take. The beautiful thing is that God gives us freewill to choose to believe in God or to not believe. Believing is a choice, much like knowing. You can choose to Believe in God or you can choose not to Believe in God. What ultimately matters is what you choose. God doesn't change; God's Unconditional Love never changes. The only thing that changes are the choices we make. So you can choose to Believe or you can choose not to Believe, the choice is 100% yours.

I choose to Believe in God. I choose to Believe in God's Unconditional Love. I choose to Believe in the Spiritual Authority that God offers to each and every one of us. I choose to Believe that if I use my Spiritual Gifts as guided by the Holy Spirit, I will fulfill my Spiritual Purpose.

To me, Believing is more important than knowing. Believing is the foundation of your relationship with God, and in the end, when all is said and done, that's all that matters. So what about you? Are you a **Believer**?

I pray that you allow the Holy Spirit to come into your life and interact with your Soul/Spirit. I pray that you choose to embrace God's Unconditional Love and I pray that you Believe.

Remember: Believe It, Declare It, and Do It! God bless you!

Be the Light in the Darkness

It's easy to go to church and worship God with other Believers. Most people go to church to get their spiritual gas tank filled for the next week. Church becomes a place where you can re-energize yourself and your Spirit/Soul, which is great. But what about when you're not at church? What about when you're at work, or at the store waiting in line? Is the way you behave, act and speak a testimony to anyone who interacts with you or observes you that you have close personal relationship with God? Do you reflect the Unconditional Love that God has for you and everyone?

The Believer's life is a constant testimony of your personal close relationship with God and I Believe that the Believer's life should reflect God's Unconditional Love through our behavior, actions and words. It all starts with what you Believe and how you think. When you Believe in God's Unconditional Love and allow the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, you embrace your Spiritual Authority and exercise your Spiritual Authority through your actions and words. So how do you remain strong outside of church so that others can witness God's Unconditional Love through you?

When you Believe in God and God's Unconditional Love, you realize that you are protected. You are protected from all harm, both in this physical reality and in the Spiritual Reality. Once you Believe you are protected by God's Unconditional Love, you can choose to have no fear. The key here is to "**choose**" to have no fear. God gives us freewill to make chooses. Having or living in fear is a choice. What happens when you choose to have no fear? When you Believe that God protects you, you can choose to walk in that faith. **Walking in faith means thinking, behaving, acting and speaking on what you Believe.** Walking in faith means practicing what you Believe. You can choose to let your life (behavior, actions and words) reflect your Belief in God's Unconditional Love.

You can choose to perform actions and to speak words on a daily basis that reflect God's Unconditional Love. You can choose each morning to thank God for blessing you. You can choose to allow the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, behavior, actions and words each morning. You can choose that no matter the circumstances, no matter what other people do and say to you, that you will walk in your faith in God's Unconditional Love. You can choose to think positive, behave positive, act positive and speak positive no matter what happens to you. Choose for your life be a reflection of your close personal relationship with God and God's Unconditional Love.

Have the courage to stand up for what you Believe. Let the Holy Spirit guide you in everything you do. Listen to God's word, as God speaks to us constantly. It's easy to praise and worship God in church. Your "light" shines with other Believers when you're in church, but it shines the brightness when you're not in church, not among Believers. Your reflection of God's Unconditional Love shines the brightness in darkness. Let your life be a light in the darkness! Be not afraid!

Remember: Believe It, Declare It, and Do It!

Empathy: Understanding Someone's Pain

As Believer's, we strive to have our daily lives reflect the close personal relationship we have with God and the Unconditional Love God has for us. Part of being human is having and expressing emotions. Emotions have a purpose in that they assist us in the way we experience life as human beings. But we have to remember that first and foremost, we are Spiritual beings here on earth for a limited time as human beings. Why are we here? What is our purpose? I Believe we are here to have experiences and how we react to our experiences will either lead us closer to God or we will pull away from God.

As human beings we tend to let our emotions control our thoughts, behaviors, actions and words. I Believe that we should allow the Holy Spirit to influence us more than our emotions. We must learn to control our emotions and not let our emotions control us. This is one of my constant journeys in life, and some days are better than others.

Having **empathy** is one way to keep in perspective what's important, and the most important thing is having a close personal relationship with God. Many times we allow our emotions to control how we react to someone who is negative towards us. I pray that instead of allowing your emotions to control your reaction, instead ask the Holy Spirit to give you empathy for that person. Empathy is putting yourself in that person's shoes and understanding that their perspective is based on their experiences in their lives, how they were raised and what they believe.

All of us have experienced some level of trauma as children, some more than others. The majority of us, both men and women, have experienced some degree of molestation as children, usually from a family member or someone close and trusted by the family. We all have some level of "secrets" that we deal with on either a conscious or subconscious level.

My father told me at age 29 that I was adopted. It did not come to a shock to me though. I always had a "feeling" that I was adopted. The reality was that my father tried to tell me twice that I was adopted when I was 7 and he said that I totally freaked out. He promised my mother that he would never tell me. I don't consciously remember this from when I was 7, but evidently I remembered it unconsciously and it influenced my thoughts, behavior, actions and words for my entire life, without me even knowing it.

When we allow the Holy Spirit to bring empathy into our Spirit/Soul, we can understand that people have gone through traumatic experiences that shape who they are, how they think, how they behave, how they act and how they speak. So don't take it personal when people act or react to you negatively. Have empathy for them and understand that they are a product of their experiences. React the way God would: **with Unconditional Love.**

I pray that you have empathy for people who treat you wrong. I pray that you have the courage to allow the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, behavior, actions and especially your words. I pray that you are slow to anger and even slower to reacting.

Remember that your words have power when you Believe in what you are saying. Be mindful of speaking out while your emotions are in control of you. Like my momma said "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything." It's better to shut up and to be quiet than to speak negative hurtful words.

As always, Believe It, Declare It, and Do It!

Spiritual Identity

We all know about people who steal other people's financial identity in order to profit financially. They are identity thieves. There are also people who we allow to "steal" our **Spiritual Identity**. I use the word allow, for no one can actually take your Spiritual Identity from you, but you can give it away by not embracing it. So what is Spiritual Identity and how do you not allow it to be "stolen"?

Spiritual Identity is who you are in the Spirit as it relates to how close or far away are you are to God. It begins with whether you choose to embrace God's Spiritual Authority, which God offers to everyone. Just like God's Unconditional Love, God offers us Spiritual Authority constantly. It begins with the freewill that God gives every single one of us. Since we have freewill, we make the choice at all times whether to embrace the Spiritual Authority offered by God. Most of us choose not to embrace our Spiritual Authority, because we are unaware that it exists. You don't know what you don't know. We are all born into our Spiritual Authority, but the World teaches us to not Believe in it. And when we fail to Believe in our Spiritual Authority, we can't embrace it because we don't recognize that it even exists. This is why Believing is more important than knowing. Believe in your Spiritual Authority so that you can recognize it and embrace it.

Once you recognize your Spiritual Authority, now you can choose to embrace it. When you embrace it and allow the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, behavior, actions and words, and how you use your Spiritual Gifts, then you accept and come into your Spiritual Identity or Spiritual Purpose. Each of us has a Spiritual Identity that is guided by God. When we choose to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us, there is nothing we can't do; there is nothing we can't accomplish. God makes the impossible possible. There are people in this world who recognize and embrace their Spiritual Authority, but they choose to use their Spiritual Gifts for self-gratification rather than providing solutions to people who have challenges. When we don't use our Spiritual Authority, we allow those who use their Spiritual Authority for self-gratification to influence our thoughts, behavior, actions and words. We allow them to steal our Spiritual Identity; steal our Spiritual Purpose.

I pray today that you choose not to allow others to steal your Spiritual Authority. I pray today that you choose to allow the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, behavior, actions, and words so that you can provide solutions to the challenges people face so that they may have a closer personal relationship with God. **Believe It, Declare It, and Do It. God Bless You!**

The Believer's Prayer

God we thank you for waking us up this morning;
we thank you for our continued health and freedom;
and we thank you for watching over us and our loved ones.
We ask that you provide the same level of protection over us today that you did yesterday.

Today we choose to Believe and Trust in your Unconditional Love.

We choose to embrace it and wear it like a coat of armor around our Spirit;

Knowing that there is nothing in existence that can harm our Spirit, except that which we give authority to.

So today we choose to embrace the Spiritual Authority you give each every one of us.

We choose today to walk in Faith, and not in fear, worry or concern.

We choose today to allow the Holy Spirit to guide our thoughts, behavior, actions, and words,

so that we will use the Spiritual Gifts you've bestowed upon us to provide solutions to the challenges that people are facing today.

In doing so, not only will the people we help be rewarded, but we will be rewarded also;

And not only in the physical world, but also in the Spiritual Reality.

And finally God, we choose to have our lives be a living testimony of what it means to have a close personal relationship with You.

We choose to be positive and to speak positive words to everyone we come in contact with today.

In doing so, we will plant seeds in people's Spirits so that they too may have a close personal relationship with You. In the name of God we pray. Amen!