

## Jesus said, “I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life”

John 14

By Iverna Tompkins

As transcribed by Jane Vaughn

Being troubled about negative circumstances in our social, economic, or political world is not for God’s people. That is a serious statement. It can be a constant war or mental battle for us because we are busy and have so many serious things going on in our lives let alone in the world around us. I can become anxious before noon if I am careless in my thinking. The Lord has been dealing with me during this past year, focusing on this tendency, as I found myself in a “forced rest” because of multiple sequential physical situations. He has been working on me from the inside out – *cleansing*, doing a deeper work than before, showing me things I would have gone to the guillotine *swearing* were not in me. I honestly did not know they were there or needed my attention. But I finally came to realize we are all better off if we willingly fall on the Rock and repent – or the other option could be a crushing experience.

Let us look at John 14. Verse 1 begins: “Let not your heart be troubled.” It seems to me that we must be capable of this kind of “heart trouble” or He wouldn’t have addressed it. Breaking it down further, we can see the first words: “Let not.” The implication here is that we have a choice. We are to fight against the problems that weigh so heavily in our minds. Actually, we have to war against them. We cannot *allow* trouble to overpower our hearts. Jesus is saying, “Don’t let that happen to you. Don’t *let* your heart be troubled!” And then, He kindly gives us the reason for not “worrying.” It is because “you believe in Me and I believe in you.”

That’s one thing this whole passage is saying. Jesus is talking to His disciples, the eleven, in the Upper Room after Judas left to set his betrayal in motion. In essence, Jesus says to them, and then to us by extension, “Don’t you understand? I’m preparing a place for you. It’s not just for one. I am preparing a place for each one of My children. I am preparing a specific place for YOU. It is going to happen and it’s going to be one of God’s *suddenlies*! Just SUDDENLY! there it is. It’ll be ready. I’m preparing a place for you. Why be so troubled?”

Can we understand there is *a place* He has prepared in eternity for us, but also in the *here and now*? And when His placement, His temporal and spiritual provision for us happens, we look back and say, “If only I would have known; if I only had understood His purpose in this ‘trouble.’” Then – if you had “only known” ahead of time – you would never have known faith!

Verse 3. “If I go and prepare. . . I will come again.” I believe in the Second Coming of the Lord. You must know that. I even believe in the Rapture of the Church. I’m that old fashioned. ☺ But I’d like to give a secondary approach to this truth in God’s Word. Jesus said, “And if I go...” You see, He does “go.” He goes away!! He steps back.

Tell the truth. You can just be there – on fire for God, sensing His presence, praying with deep passion and – all of a sudden – He’s not there! You lose the sense of His immanent presence. Now, I know you don’t like to hear that – but you *do* experience it. And you are left to wonder, “What happened? Where *are* You?”

The Bible says that He hides Himself! (Is.45:15; Ps.44:24;57:17) He hides from *me* sometimes. And when this occurs, I have to come back to *faith* and say, “I know You’re here. I don’t sense it – I don’t smell You – and I don’t see You right now – but I believe, I *trust*, You are here!! And I’m waiting right here in the place of *faith*, for Your return!” That’s what He’s listening for from us. What He wants to hear and see is our faith *expressed* in Him and His Word, regardless of our *feelings*.

And then, it’s amazing that He goes on to say in verse 3: “I’m preparing a place for you, that where I am you may be also.” Stop and think about that! I mean – Oh! Thank heaven for that day! That day in eternity! But, “Lord, let’s talk about today. We live here in the nasty now and now!”

“*That where He is...*” Where is He? When He’s talking, where is He? Yes, Jesus is in Jerusalem at a most significant juncture in His earthly life. More than that, however, He is so one with the Father that everything He does, He says “*It’s the Father.*” Everything He says, He says “*It’s the Father*” (Jn.14:10;24;5:19). Are you with me? Step out of only thinking “eternity” – and step into the temporal “today.” He says, “*Where I am...*”

It is so important that we actually hear this. I want you to understand the implications of what He has just said. This is it: ***We can have that same intimacy with the Father – now.*** We truly can! Allow me to paraphrase Jesus’ words to make it even clearer: “I’m going to go away. I’m going to edge away from you. I’m going to pull back a bit. But wait...”

How much of God do you want? I know people that will seek Him and then when He withdraws, when He temporarily removes that wonderful sense of His presence, that’s it – and they stop. They may say something like this: “I remember back when...” so many number of days or months or years ***ago***, “when we had this great move of God...” But they haven’t continued – SEARCHING – SEEKING – KNOCKING until... (See Mt.7:7,8 where the verb tenses indicate an on-going and continuous action of asking, seeking, and knocking). And that’s why He backs up.

This is a farewell sermon found in these few central chapters of the Gospel of John. Jesus knows He is going to leave and these are His last words to His disciples (who do not vote “Yes,” by the way, on His going).

In John 14, Jesus says, “I’m going to go. I’m going to prepare a place for you. And if I go – I’ll come again and I’ll receive you unto Myself and *where I am* – “ Can you see it? This is a fresh revelation for me! While I was meditating on this passage, I thought, “Oh! Where He is – I – can be there!!” It’s worth the continued knocking! Oh, yes it is! I’m excited that He’s there!

Go on reading because He says in verse 4, “And whither I go... the way you know.” Then it’s rather a funny thing when you read how Thomas objected, “We don’t either!” Verse 5 – it’s worded a little different in the King James. ☺ “Thomas said, ‘Lord, we know not where You go.’” And Jesus said, “You do know the way,” but Thomas replied, “We don’t know the way. How can we know that?” And Jesus responded to him, in verse 6, “**I am the way – the truth, and the life.** No man comes to the Father but by Me.” Basically, He is saying, “I am the Way to the father for your eternity. And – I am the Way for you to be in His presence, accessing everything you need for today!”

Verse 7 – Jesus continues, “If you had known Me, you should have known My Father also; and from here on you’ll know Him and have seen Him.” This time we hear from Phillip, (verse 8), “That sounds great, Lord, show us the Father.” And Jesus lamented, “Have I been so long a time with you and you would say to Me, ‘Show us the Father?’” (Jn.14:9)

*What I want to focus on at this time is Jesus saying this – “I am the way – the truth – the life.”* Oh, we know that verse so well. We do – and we don’t. Let’s take the time to consider this more fully as together we look at all three declarations.

## **THE WAY**

**Jesus is the way** – to what?

1. The first point must obviously be the literal exegesis – “I am the **way to the Father.**”

There is a whole generation today of people who have never known a loving father – a natural father who was loving and kind, a father who was even there. We read here that Jesus said, “Where I am, you can be, and I am the way to the Father.” Please see this. You’re not *just* a servant of God. You’re not *just* an intercessor. You are one with the Father! In John chapter 17, Jesus explains this further. In verse 21

Jesus says, “that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You, that they also may be one in Us...” Jesus continues this thought in verse 23: “I in them and You in Me...” God’s plan (from the very beginning) is that we (all of mankind) may become integrally united with Him, *one* with Him, and Him with or in us. And so, we, who have already received Christ as Savior, have a vital and dynamic message that this generation *longs and needs* to hear! Their cry: “I need a father!” Our response: “Jesus is the way.” The way to the *presence of God* is Jesus.

2. The second point is this – I see that Jesus is the **way to a higher walk of fellowship**.

You cannot have a higher walk of fellowship *with God* if you don’t come *through* Jesus (verse 6b – “No man comes to the Father but by Me”). I love it when we sing, “Hosanna! Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord!” (Mk.11:9; Lk.19:38; Ps.118:25,26). When the day comes that *we*, the people of God, understand the power of the Name of Jesus – then we can exclaim, “Harvest! It’s Harvest time.” That’s when we can say, “Oh, Hallelujah! Revival!” It will be at that time when the **church knows** – when **we each know** – there is POWER in the Name of Jesus – there’s AUTHORITY in the Name of Jesus. Jesus said, “I am the way. Have I been this long with you and you still don’t get it?”

3. Jesus is the *way to the presence of God* and the *way to a higher walk of fellowship*. He also is the **way to greater knowledge**. The Lord shows us things we never knew before (Jb.42:3).

When you start praising Jesus – start acknowledging Jesus – then stand back to watch Him reveal Himself in power. Isn’t it sad that it took the *world* to revive Calvary (through the film “The Passion of the Christ”)? I mean, I’m glad he did it (Mel Gibson). I’m glad we saw the film. I’m glad we cried through it. But, where were *we*? Where were we, Church? Why did it take someone from the world system to point to Jesus’ work on the cross? We, of course, knew it – but our knowledge of that wondrous Truth did not propel us into positive action – into declaring before the whole world the awesome wonder of our Lord, our Savior, our Provider, Who is the only Way!

A common response to that film was, “You have no idea what that did for me.” The cynical ones said, “Well, a lot of good men died for other men. You know, there were a lot of war heroes in World Wars 1 and 2.” That’s not the point at all, is it? That it took someone from the *world* to depict on the screen – to revive the attention of others, saying, “Jesus did that – for me!”

That’s where knowledge comes in. In our *knowing*, we can also be directed to faith-filled activities that influence our world. We don’t always have to grab people by the collar on the street corners to tell them what we know. In fact, most of the time, the more powerful witness for Christ is a quieter demonstration of how we live, how we speak, where we go, how we fill our leisure time, how diligent we are in our work or community involvements. Jesus can and will show us how to do that. He is the *way to knowledge*.

4. Jesus is the **way to wisdom**.

You cannot read the Book of Proverbs with understanding if you merely see the word *wisdom* and do not know what it means in that context. It isn’t until you put the name “Jesus” in place of the word “wisdom” that you understand the Book of Proverbs. Paul said, “He was made unto us...” what? “Wisdom.” (1Cor.1:30). Wisdom – righteousness – and power.

*You* are far wiser than you realize and filled with far more knowledge. Just like the disciples, in ignorance we say, “Oh, I wish I knew. I wish I understood good things like that.” He **is** the way! You abide in Him and He abides in you” (Jn.15:5). You have the “mind of Christ” (1Cor.2:16; Jn.15:15; Phil.2:5). We need to learn to tap into His never-ending resources. They reside within each of us through the Holy Spirit. And we need only to ask the question (Jn.15:7; Jas.1:5), “God, I need Your wisdom.”

5. He is the **way to power**.

In Jesus' Name – there is power (Jn.14:14;16:24; Mk.16:17,18). Jesus said, “I’m your way to the Father and He’s going to send you the Holy Spirit” (Jn.14:26). He comes from Jesus. If Jesus hadn’t prayed for it to happen (Jn.15:26), we wouldn’t have Him. We would never know the Holy Spirit were it not for Jesus. There’s no way that Father could entrust His Holy Spirit to me if He didn’t see me in Jesus! (cf. Jn.17:23). What an amazing truth! That God sees Jesus in me – in you.

When we realize and understand that *the very same Spirit* that raised Jesus Christ from the dead dwells within our mortal bodies (is that not astoundingly amazing to you?!), (2Cor.4:14; 1Cor.6:14; Rom.8:11; Eph.1:19), we begin to see things differently. I’m not just an “anything.” I’m not *just* a Christian! I am a Christian!! I am, you are, infused with everything that is contained or implied in His Name! You’re not “just.” You’re also not an “X” anything in God’s mind. “I’m an X-minister. I’m an X-intercessor. I’m an X-pastor.” No, you’re not. Once He’s called you, whether you’re functioning in that capacity or not, you still are that. Learn to “pastor” everyone you have in your sphere of influence! Learn to “minister” in the marketplace, in your home. It’s your opportunity. You can minister fully without a formal platform or title.

**Jesus said, “I am the way.”** Jesus is not only the way TO... He is the way OUT OF....

“I am!” – reminds me of the name God gave to identify Himself when Moses inquired at the burning bush (Ex.3:13,14). Moses asked, “Who shall I say sent me to them (the captives in Egypt)? How shall I respond to Your people, the Israelites?” And God declared, “I AM. I AM WHO I AM.” Here in John 14, Jesus says, “*I am the way.*” He’s not only the way *in* to the Kingdom of God. He’s the way *out* of our quagmires!

1. He is the only *way out of sin.*

We sing it: “Oh, the blood of Jesus... that washed me, white as snow.” But we think: “Oh, you don’t know what I have...” It doesn’t matter what or when or that. He is the *way out of past habits.* He is the *way out* of our old patterns of thinking, living, being. He is *the way.*

2. He’s the *way out of our failures.*

It’s through Jesus that we dare get up, stand up, and go again after we’ve been downed by our circumstances! (Mic.7:8; Pr.24:16). He extends His holy hand to help us rise again (Ps.37:24). He lifts our faces to be able to see the love in His face and move on (Ps.3:3). The Lord is ever-present (Ps.46:1; Deut.4:7; Ps.145:18); He is there to deliver (Ps.34:17-19).

3. He’s the *way out of our sicknesses and all disease.*

Never has there been a day when we more needed to be reminded of that than today with all the crazy diseases. They just find a cure for one thing and some stranger thing comes along. Whoever thought we’d be scared of a little mosquito? (West Nile Virus) We can turn to Him for all our physical needs (Ps.107:20; Pr.4:20-22).

What’s the way out of all these things? Jesus is. He said, “*I am the way.*” Church, there has never been a more opportune moment in history to witness to the *practical power* of God than there is today. Jesus is the way. **He is the only way.**

4. He’s even the *way out of our deeply seated, pre-conceived ideas – our prejudices.*

It is *His* love expressed through His people, His own children, whereby we can possibly minister to the unloved, the unlovely, the most down-trodden, the homeless, or addicted. How else could we embrace the “rejects” of our society? It’s simply not “natural” for us to encounter them let alone reach out to them

*in love*. Too many, even Christians, would ask, “Why don’t they just get a job and, you know, *work...*?” How do you *love* people like that? Jesus is the way. Yes or no?

5. Moreover, He’s the *way out of our self-designed problems*.

Do you know how hard it is to get out of something *you* designed? I understand that because if I design it, I only design the way *in*. I don’t think of all the details ahead of time, like how to get out of it. That comes after we are in the maze or mire or mess of our negatives and then wonder, “How did I get from over there to where I am now? Oh, woe is me!”

“Woe is me” is a good prayer! That’s a *freedom prayer*. You know – when God replies, “Finally!” and I throw myself on the Rock! “I can’t take it anymore!” And all heaven says, “Hal – le – lu – jah!” When we really understand, from a fresh perspective, and say, “God, I *got myself* into this predicament, how am I going to...?” *You* cannot get yourself out completely. Jesus said, “I’m the way. Follow Me and I will make you to become...” I love it!! When will we learn that **He is our every way?**

Paul says, “Follow me as I follow Christ” (1Cor.11:1). What does he mean? He’s actually saying, “I found *the way*.” I greatly, deeply resent the churches that called themselves The Way – and then went so far astray from God’s Truth – brutalizing children and all the rest – until we’re afraid to use the word – the term – “The Way.” We had that movement here in Phoenix. They called themselves a denomination. Not so. They were a cult! And Horrendous! The Way. They weren’t the way – *Jesus is the Way!*

6. He’s the *way out of discouragement*. He’s the *way out of depression*.

Say His precious name: “Jesus.” Whisper it. Shout it. Just walk around the house saying, “Jesus.” “Well, I just don’t know what to pray, or how to pray.” I have had so many hours of that – when I truly have not known what to pray. After I’ve done all the things I know to do or say, and I don’t know what else to pray, I run out of words. I run out of thoughts. I just don’t know – and lots of times, my prayer just becomes a soft whisper, “Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. Jesus. Jesus.” And I feel something break for the one I am holding in my mind and heart of intercession. *There’s power in the Name of Jesus, because of what it represents*, because of *who He is!* (Jn.17:21,23).

7. He’s the *way out of our past reputations*.

We should never allow these words come out of our mouths again: “Everybody knows I’m...” Alright, maybe you *were* a cheat – or a liar – or whatever you were. Scripture says, “And of these – all of these...” and it names other things – “were some of you” (1Cor.6:9-11). Were. **WERE**. How did you get out of those ways of life?

My earnest prayer is for you to grasp these truths – deeply within your souls. Jesus’ disciples didn’t really get it while He stood there with them in the flesh. He goes through this whole discourse with them and they still said, “No. We don’t know the Father. We never saw Him.” (Jn.14:8. implied).

Too many people do a similar thing in churches today. The Lord will move in such a glorious way – through a great altar service – with such power. Always there will be those people who don’t get *anything!* They walk out of the building saying, or at least thinking, “When Pastor did this... or said that... I missed it. Didn’t do anything for me.” That is more than sad. Actually, it’s sin! It’s like they’re dull of understanding and don’t perceive God’s presence. It reminds me of something we read in Hebrews 5:11 and 12: “...since you have become dull of hearing. For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again... and you have come to need milk and not solid food.” This speaks to us of spiritual food and spiritual growth. God expects us to grow up. (See also Mt.13:13-15).

“Well, I prefer it when so-and-so sings. Then I really get blessed. I just don’t like all these new choruses.” That’s the voice of a “crib-Christian” (Heb.5:13-14). Jesus said, “I’m the way. You want to know how to get there? It’s Me. It’s through Me. It’s by Me. ***I am the way to where you are going.***”

Jesus is more than the Way... He is...

## **THE TRUTH**

Let’s turn to the second attestation in the same verse: He said, “**I am the Truth**” (Jn.14:6).

I love that today more than I’ve ever loved it. I’m so sick of being lied to. We have a fancy name for “lying” these days. They call it “SPIN.” Political spin. That’s when the powers that be make everything sound like you want it to sound. It’s nothing but a bold-faced lie! I’m hungry for truth – aren’t you?

I’m sick of “cutesy” too. Cutesy sermons – you know, the ones that entertain and tickle the ear (2Tim.4:3, The Message). These speakers sort of throw ideas up there in the air with such timidity – “and if any of you just *feel* like praying, that’d be fine. Bless your heart.” “No, pastor! That just does not make the grade. There are some things that are not optional!”

What’s so wonderful about Jesus saying, “**I am the truth?**”

1. The first thing I see here is that **His teachings are reliable.**

You can count on the Book. We may not be able to count on our own interpretation of what we have read – until the Holy Spirit straightens us out – but we can count on every word God has spoken. If God said it – He promises He will do it (Num.23:19). So, why do we doubt? It’s because it doesn’t happen in our time frame. We figure He always means “right now.”

I think I almost always believe Him when He first promises something – when I first become aware of some promise in the Word. I really do. “That’s for me, Lord!” There’s faith in my heart because it’s *His* faith that declares it.

A man spent 38 years – couldn’t get off his bed – a filthy pad he laid on (Jn.5:2-9). Jesus walks along and says, “Rise. Take up your bed and walk.” The man gets up, picks up his pad, and walks away. How come? He couldn’t move for 38 years. Why is it he can get up now? What was different on this particular day?

I believe it is this: ***when Jesus spoke, He always coupled His words with a “now” faith that if not acted on quickly does not last.*** When it is *His* faith – His word – in that /kairos/ moment with Him activating His faith, we can operate based entirely on *His* powerful faith. We hear His voice, take Him at His word, and move out in faith – His faith. *His* faith will activate anything on the spot. And then, as He determines the time frame, responsibility (think – “the ability to respond”) for faith transfers from Him to us. That is, responsibility for the “faith-to-receive-it” (the promise) transfers from His faith to the intended recipient (you or me) after it has been spoken.

That’s why at times you have done *exploits* (Dan.11:32) – because right then, when He spoke the Word – you did it acting on *His faith* and it worked! And then, when you went home, that /kairos/ moment passed. The promises and the word did not change, but the responsibility for faith is now transferred to you to hold fast to that which has been given.

On another occasion, Jesus said to a blind man, “Go down and wash at the pool of Siloam (Jn.9:1-7). The man goes there, finds the pool and does as he was instructed, based upon the words of Jesus. Suddenly, he can see. Why? *It’s the faith of Christ working at that moment.* It isn’t the man’s own faith. He was still walking, acting on the active faith of the living and powerful word of Jesus (Heb.4:12). He didn’t

wait a week to see if Jesus had anything else to say, he moved in the appointed moment. He acted on Jesus' words because they are true.

2. I see that **His promises can be relied on** as well. They are true. They are certain.

In my Daddy's church, we used to sing, "I can, I will, I do believe... that Jesus saves me now – that Jesus heals me now – that Jesus..." Did you ever sing that song? And the more we sang it, the higher our faith rose. I challenge you. Open the Book, read the promises, and begin saying "I can." and "I will." Now, the truth is, I can't do it (anything requiring the power of faith) on my own. You can't do it on your own either. And, the determination of setting and establishing your will isn't the key either. God knows how I have *willed* to do things and never been able to fulfill any promise of God by or through my own good dealings, thinkings, speakings – apart from Him. I can – I will – I do believe – that **Jesus!** It's "Christ in you the hope of glory (Col.1:27). That's how the "effectual working of His power" activates our faith (Eph.3:7; Phile.6).

Paul said it so well in Galatians: "The life that I now live, I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Gal.2:20).

3. **His works we shall do.** "Greater things than I do shall ye do" (Jn.14:12).

I don't think He meant greater in the sense of more wonderful or more awesome. I think it's greater in the sense of longer – more people – more years – more longevity in the working (not qualitative, but quantitative). Jesus had only three and a half years to do His work. I can almost hear Him, "Hey! You'll do a lot more than I did. You will have a lot longer time to do the work. Tons more time!"

I hear people, who haven't enough faith to heal a headache, proudly say, "We're going to do greater things than Jesus did!" and assume it means bigger and better. Their faith can't even come up to the level of "low on oil." Well, put the dipstick back in again! Add oil. We must come to the place of truly comprehending what He actually said and then to understand what is our part and what still is His.

4. **He will return.**

Remember, He said, "If I go, and I will go, I will come again and receive you unto Myself. That where I am, you may be also" (Jn.14:3). And then, "I am the truth" (verse 6).

God has never lied to you (Num.23:19; Tit.1:2; Heb.6:18). The Holy Spirit has never prophesied a lie to you. Jesus has never dangled a carrot in front of you to taunt you saying, "C'mon. Keep coming. Keep on coming." He has a definite plan and a purpose (Jer.29:11). He has a certain way – He has an absolute way – for each one of us. It's a progressive plan. It is a growing plan. As we grow in our understanding of His ways, and in our trust of believing Him, really believing what He says is the truth, we are able to accomplish more and more with Him. What we couldn't do before, a number of years ago, we can do now because of His constant and continued faithfulness in our growth processes. Hallelujah! The truth of *His return is assured!*

5. **We shall be like Him.**

"Over there, sure, in heaven. 'We shall be like Him for we shall see Him as He is'" (1Jn.3:2). No. I'm talking about now. Here. Today. We can be growing more and more like Him every day (Rom.8:29; 2Pet.1:4). Of course we are growing. Some grow faster than others, but we all grow. Spiritual growth should be the goal of every Christian. Measurable growth. He created us to bare fruit (Jn.15:16). He is looking for maturity that brings a harvest. The *fruit* of the Spirit is: Love – Joy – Peace – Longsuffering – Gentleness – Kindness – Meekness – Temperance – Faith (Gal.5:22, 23) and that's just for starters.

Peter says it like this: You need all *these things* in your life – referring to faith, virtue, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love – and “if they be in you and abound” – if they keep growing – “they make you so you shall be never barren, never unfruitful” (2Pet.1:8). Furthermore, you shall not fail, “stumble” (verse 10). There’ll be no failure. Just by simple addition – adding one godly trait to another. Adding. Building. Always growing in the truth of His ways.

This is a walk, my Friend. It’s progressive. Sanctification is a process. It builds from one sure step to the next. You’re not going to get it all at once. This growth is not gained by osmosis – no matter how much we want it to be, or wish it could be! It’s a way. W – A – Y. **Jesus is the way.** And **He is the truth.**

And now we shall see that He is also...

## **THE LIFE**

The last statement in John 14:6, is certainly not the least of them. Jesus says, “**I am the life.**”

What kind of life? “I am come that ye may have – life – and that more abundantly” (Jn.10:10). Generally speaking, we do not believe that. Forgive me for such a blanket statement, but I have yet to meet a Christian who proves, by the way he lives, that he really believes that declaration.

1. **Abundant life** doesn’t mean affluence and it doesn’t mean never being ill or never being hurt. Abundant life means *full trust in Jesus*. “I know whom I have believed” (2Tim.1:12) and “I am persuaded – neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor a creature, nor any other thing! will be able to separate me from Him.” (Rom.8:38,39) Oh, I hope you can fully grasp this! Then, I hope you go out and share the truth with many others. *Impart* to them what you are learning.

2. He also promises us an **overcoming life**. To be an overcomer, if you look at the word in the Greek, it means “over-overcome!” Not “barely overcome.” You see – we don’t have to fight in our own steam as much as we do. It is simply acknowledging that it is all in Him, and becoming infused with the power of His words: in Jesus, “we are more than conquerors” (Rom.8:37). We can over overcome. Remember our little song? “I can. I will. I do believe... that Jesus...” We *will* achieve success, in Him.

3. A **life that is lived by His faith and His love**. We noted this truth earlier from Galatians 2:20 – “The life that I now live – I live by the faith of the Son of God who loved me.” It isn’t because you love Him – it’s because He loves you – so much so that He gave Himself freely (1Jn.4:10). That’s the love we live by.

“Who do you think you are, Iverna?” “Thank you for asking. I’m the beloved of the Lord. He loves me. I don’t know why – but I sure do accept it! It’s certainly not because I never failed. Nor is it because I do so much for Him. He just loves me!” And He loves you as well, in the same manner and to the same extent! Embrace that truth. God does not play favorites in dispersing His love (Jn.3:16; Jn.1:12).

4. When Jesus said, “I am the life,” one of the greatest blessings I think of in a Christian life, is that I have a **useful life**. He gives us *purpose and direction* and a sense of being useful. Some people we minister to are so broken – so hurt – so destroyed. They say, “If I could just be *useful* again!” The researchers tell us that one of the major motivators common to mankind is the need of a feeling of significance. When that is taken away for whatever reason, we spiral towards the bottom of life.

In residence homes for the aged, what’s the biggest problem? It isn’t their health or their inability to get around anymore – it’s their feeling of *uselessness*. There are thousands of people – thousands upon thousands – in our own nation – and not necessarily only the elder ones – who have no feelings of *usefulness*. “What do you do?” “Not much. I get up, go through the day, and go to bed. Never accomplish anything much (significant).”

Jesus said, “I’m the **way out** of that, and I’m the **way in** to usefulness. I’ve come that you might have life *more abundantly*.” Reach out and touch one person today with kindness and you’ll be a useful person. Joy will rise up within you and you’ll have a reason for living! Turn your attentions to the needs of one someone else, and maybe just greet them pleasantly. It will make a difference – in their life – and in yours.

What motivates you? Make someone happy. The world said this – and we could sing it (“Make someone happy. Make just one someone happy...”). Good idea. Great idea! In fact – it’s not a unique idea – that’s exactly what Jesus said! You’d be surprised – how a simple smile will minister to people. When I’m out in a public place, like an airport terminal, I like to find the crabbiest looking person, look directly at them, and break out with a big smile. I love doing that! It’s fun!! People are so ugly when they’re scowling! Now, you know, they may think you’re a nut (please forgive the slang), but they can’t help responding! They’ll keep checking to see if you’re still smiling, and the second or third time their eyes meet with yours, they will have to smile back.

And for the Christian? Oh! The potential for the beauty! “Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.” You see – God made everyone beautiful (Ec.3:11)! Sin makes them ugly. Hate makes them ugly! Despondency makes them ugly. Greed makes them ugly. Now – we have the antidote to all of those “uglies!” “How are you doing today?” “Oh, not so great.” Just wait till they take a breath! Give them hope in the One you have nailed your hope in (1Pet.3:15)!

5. Last point – This is not just a “now” word, a temporal word. Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and I am the life everlasting.”

Everything you are overcoming today has *eternal* significance. He is doing an eternal work in you. You can’t read the New Testament and convince yourself that there aren’t degrees of heaven – and hell. There are. The Bible teaches that we’re rewarded according to our own works -- deeds, labor, what we have done (see Mt.16:27; Rom.2:6; 1Co.3:8; 2Cor.5:10;11:15; Rev.2:23;20:12,13;22:12).

God doesn’t waste you or what you have lived through. Not one trial. Not one failing. Not one experience. Not one moment. Not one sickness. Not one long period of waiting for fulfillment. He never wastes His people! Never! He’s a good God! All the time, He’s good! *All the time*, He is good. And He is “working an eternal weight of glory” (2Cor.4:17) in you and for you.

That’s a heavy thing, His glory. It is weighty. The glory of God on us and within us is a weight – that’s what the word means. “Glory” means “weight.” It is a heavy thing, meaning it’s a *valuable* thing. The glory – the dimension – the amount of glory that is in each one of His children is so vitally precious to God! He’s out looking for it (and, looking out for it! see Jer.17:10). He is watching for how many *anythings* we have done, but not for punitive reasons. He’s looking for how much of the glory resides within each one of us.

Jesus said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father but by Me.” My prayer is that one day, we will honestly and deeply understand the *fullness of this truth*, and live like it for all the world to see.