

BELIEVERS AND UNBELIEVERS

Spiritual Warfare in the Bible - Volume 3

Jonathan Carl

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**BELIEVERS AND
UNBELIEVERS**

*Spiritual Warfare in the
Bible - Volume 3*

God's Answers about the Battle of the Followers of
Christ against the Unseen Spiritual Forces of Evil

Dr. Jonathan Carl

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Downloadable resources and helpful study videos
freely available at: **www.SpiritualWarfare.blog**

I am so thankful to God for His strength and truth in Jesus!

I love and am so grateful for my amazing wife Brittney and her loving, tireless support. Together we are blessed with some amazing daughters in Sophia, Lydia, Alia, and Mia! Our church family at South Fork has been incredible in their encouragement :) *Thank you all for putting up with my many hours of studying & writing for this work!*

Ephesians 6:10–12 (ESV) “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. [11] Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. [12] For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

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than 500 consecutive verses of the ESV Bible or more than one half of any book of the ESV Bible. Accessible online at: www.esv.org

www.SpiritualWarfare.blog



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Life is hard. Life is full of struggles and suffering. We need the reminder that our primary battles are not physical, financial, emotional, or mental, but spiritual. We ultimately are in an ongoing spiritual battle.

What is “spiritual warfare”? Spiritual warfare, based on Ephesians 6:12, is “the battle of the followers of Christ against the unseen spiritual forces of evil.”

This resource is designed to help you find God’s answers about the battle of the followers of Christ against the unseen spiritual forces of evil.

Visit our website to find freedom and victory in your daily battles through Christ’s finished work on the cross. Share our free resources with others to help them as well!

www.TrustworthyWord.com

TRUSTWORTHY WORD

Titus 1:9 “He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.” (ESV)

Trustworthy Word was born out of a desire to equip churches with free, downloadable handouts as a resource for biblical teaching on various topics. We wanted to see the people of God think deeply about the Word of God and realize the implications that come about as a result.

One of the great things that we have seen happen though is that members of our church (South Fork Baptist Church in Hodgenville, KY) have begun to use the site as a mobile resource when they are sharing the gospel or having bible-centered conversations.

Trustworthy Word has become a digital filing cabinet where with a few taps of the finger, we can quickly locate helpful resources both for our own spiritual growth and to engage those with whom we are having Christ focused conversations.

Our hope is that you too will find Trustworthy Word as a digital discipleship and evangelism resource you can utilize in moments when you have your phone, tablet,

or computer with you. You may enjoy using some of the free handouts to help guide your small group into a deeper walk with Jesus in Bible study. With just a few clicks we hope you begin to think deeply about the Word of God and see how that impacts your life.

www.Bible.video - “The Video Bible”

@TheVideoBibleChannel



Bible.Video

“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.” - 1 Timothy 4:13

Did someone read to you growing up? Did that time impact you? Help you? Grow you? Comfort you?

We feel that reading the Bible visually and audibly to one another is important and helpful too! What a joy it is to see print Bibles reaching the ends of the earth (through amazing groups like the Gideons and The International Bible Society and especially www.NetBible.com).

How incredible it is that translations are made (Wycliffe) and digitally distributed (Bible.com and BibleStudyTools.com) all over the world! In the past few decades, audio Bibles have also become numerous and more accessible through wonderful ministries like Faith Comes By Hearing.

Unfortunately, there isn't much of a presence currently of someone visually reading the Bible to another. We hope to help provide this through the “The Video Bible”!

We feel this is a needed resource for evangelism

and discipleship and we pray that it will be extremely effective! The biblical origins of both visually watching someone read and listening simultaneously is important to how we process and respond to the Word.

We hope to have the opportunity to help get complete bible translations free into the ears, eyes, minds, and souls of millions more over the years ahead via video.

www.Catholic.blog

The **CATHOLIC BLOG**

www.catholic.blog

Ephesians 2:8–9 “For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (ESV)

What does the Catholic Church really believe? Many people have their opinions, experiences, or second-hand information on Catholic beliefs but a true understanding of the Catholic faith is found in its *Catechism of the Catholic Church*.

The Catholic Blog simply presents portions of the Catholic Catechism with relevant Bible verses and introspective questions to consider. This free resource will help you on your journey to consider the beliefs and practices of the Roman Catholic Church and examine for yourself, through tough questions, whether The Catechism of the Catholic Church is biblically valid and trustworthy.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church is a substantial document of significant history and tradition. If you have yet to read it, I encourage you to read it in its entirety. This guide should be a helpful start and reference! As you consider the “essential and fundamental contents of Catholic doctrine” (CCC, 11), I hope you will be like the Bereans of Acts 17:11 who always put the Bible first to test what they were learning.

The Bereans are described as “noble” after hearing the teaching of the Apostle Paul for two reasons:

1) getting into the Bible with “eagerness”

2) testing the teaching of the Apostle Paul in light of Scriptures to verify his truthfulness.

Similarly, may we evaluate what we see in The Catechism of the Catholic Church in the light of the Bible to “see if these things were so.”

Acts 17:11 “Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.” (ESV)

A 3 Part Approach: Here is the approach you will find to this Bible study.

1) Interesting highlights and quotes - Due to the massive volume of writings in The Catechism of the Catholic Church, I have picked quotes from the text that I think you will find most useful and fascinating.

2) Relevant Scriptures - Likewise, I selected passages of Scripture that I thought particularly helpful in evaluating and understanding the Catholic teachings. Both The Catechism of the Catholic Church and the Bible passages should be considered in their original context and setting. There are many more possible Catholic teachings and Biblical passages to consider but I hope this is a helpful start to your studies.

3) Helpful Questions - I have chosen not to insert opinions and assertions but instead propose tough questions that help us to think critically for ourselves about what we are reading.

My end goal and hope is that we all follow God's directive to us in 2 Corinthians 13:5 to "Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!" (ESV). May we all have the joy of an eternity in the presence of Jesus!

Here are the top 10 Catholic questions answered in this book with biblical answers:

1. What is the Catechism of the Catholic Church?
2. What is Sin According to the Catholic Catechism? Do Different Sins Need Different Sacrifices?
3. Does Salvation Come through Catholic Mass? Does Giving Money to Church Help Us?
4. Is Catholic Baptism Necessary for Salvation? What about Confirmation?
5. Is Catholic Eucharist Necessary for Salvation? What about Penance?

6. Was Mary Always Saved? Did Mary Never Sin? Is Mary the Cause of Salvation? Was Mary a Virgin Her Entire Life? Did Jesus Have Any Brothers? Is It True that Mary Never Died? Did Mary Ascend to Heaven?

7. Are Images of Jesus, Mary, Saints, or Angels Helpful or Harmful? Do Relics & Rosaries have Power?

8. Should We Pray to Mary and Saints? Is it OK to Pray to Angels?

9. Will I Go to Purgatory? Do Indulgences Help Us?

10. Can Marriages Be Annulled? What about Catholic Divorce and Remarriage?

Whether you are Catholic, considering Catholicism, or just curious to understand the Catholic Church better, this Bible study will be a great help to you. Download *A Biblical Study of The Catechism of the Catholic Church* free at www.Catholic.blog

INTRODUCTION

Titus 1:9 “He must hold firm to the trustworthy word as taught, so that he may be able to give instruction in sound doctrine and also to rebuke those who contradict it.” (ESV)

This book is different than many others that you might read. The vast majority of the content is simply Bible verses and references. This approach, with lots of bullet points, is intentional in order to help you clearly hear and see God’s truths and not merely human opinion. May this work be a helpful resource for your study of God’s Word. May it help you increase in your love and awe of your Savior. If you aren’t yet a follower of Christ, may the Lord save you through the reading of His Word throughout it!

I have used these resources in teaching my church, small groups, pastors, seminary students, and doctoral students about the subject of spiritual warfare. The source of these writings has been from my own studies, counseling with church members, and sermons. These subjects have arisen from some of the most important conversations that I have had in pastoral ministry for over a decade. I hope and pray that this work serves as a tool for the Lord to use in helping His children through His Spirit and Word.

Ultimately, I have written this for the Lord. He has grown me so much through the years and I pray that this work is faithful to honor and glorify Him. I have also always told my wife and daughters that I wrote this for them as well. I love them so much and if they were the only ones to read this, then I would count it a success!

I do hope that this is a useful Bible study resource for

many around the world. I have made these chapters, videos, and the book (and other books too) in its entirety, freely downloadable and accessible at www.SpiritualWarfare.blog and also at www.TrustworthyWord.com. It has been a joy of mine to see so many souls find Scriptural counsel online at The Spiritual Warfare Blog and Trustworthy Word over the years and I pray that it continues to aid many more until the Lord returns!

In Christ,
Jonathan Carl

Ephesians 6:17 “take the helmet of salvation,
and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God”

OUTLINE

Here are descriptions of the other books in the series and Scriptural reminders of their importance. The links below contain video lectures to help you as well!

This book is part of a compilation of 10 other books you can find here:
www.spiritualwarfare.blog/free-books and
www.amazon.com/author/jonathancarl

- *God and Satan: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible*
- *Angels and Demons: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible*
- *Believers & Unbelievers: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible*
- *Heaven, Hell and Salvation: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible*
- *Frequently Asked Questions about Spiritual Warfare in the Bible: God's Answers about the Battle of the Followers of Christ against the Unseen Spiritual Forces of Evil*
- *Putting on God's Armor of Light: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible*
- *Resisting Satan's Schemes: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible*
- *Prayer and Fasting: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible*
- *Biblical Health: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible*
- *Evangelism and Missions: Spiritual Warfare in the Bible*

1. God & Satan

www.spiritualwarfare.blog/god-satan

Proverbs 1:7 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (ESV)

Ephesians 6:10 “Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.” (ESV)

The story of the Bible is not a story about spiritual warfare. The story of the Bible is the story of God. As we clearly focus on who God is (His names and characteristic) and what He has done (miracles), our enemies and struggles will seem so much smaller. Although God is the Bible's primary focus, He reveals much to us about our chief enemy in Satan. Don't miss out on what God has to tell us about our enemy's names, character, and tactics that we be best prepared to live lives that enjoy and honor our Creator.

2. Angels & Demons

www.spiritualwarfare.blog/angels-demons

Colossians 1:16 “For by him all things were created, in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things were created through him and for him.” (ESV)

2 Corinthians 11:14–15 “And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. [15] So it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. Their end will correspond to their deeds.” (ESV)

God's created angels are important in the storyline of history. In Scripture God shares many stories that explain their purposes and abilities. This section will help you to rightly understand the mostly unseen angelic beings, both faithful (angels) and fallen (demons).

3. Believers & Unbelievers

www.spiritualwarfare.blog/believers-unbelievers

1 John 3:10 “By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.” (ESV)

Matthew 12:35 “The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth

evil.” (ESV)

Humanity is divided by those who follow Jesus in faith (Christian believers) and those who follow Satan, the world, and their fleshly sin (unbelievers). It is essential to understand the identities of both groups as well as the evidences of their character and works. There is no neutral ground in this battle of the followers of Christ against the spiritual forces of evil. Here are some truths to help us be aware of who we are and rightly see the world around us with a spiritual understanding.

4. Heaven & Hell and Salvation

www.spiritualwarfare.blog/heaven-hell

Romans 10:1 “Brothers, my heart’s desire and prayer to God for them is that they may be saved.” (ESV)

Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.” (ESV)

Matthew 7:21–23 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. [22] On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ [23] And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’” (ESV)

God speaks clearly to us both about eternal life (Heaven) and eternal death (Hell). He wants believers to look forward to being in His presence in Heaven and also wants unbelievers to be warned of the danger of eternal suffering in Hell. Salvation is God’s offer and work through Christ and He has much to tell us in the Scriptures. Here are some truths about Heaven, Hell, and God’s work of salvation.

5. Spiritual Warfare Passages in the Bible

www.spiritualwarfare.blog/bible

Ephesians 6:12–13 “For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. [13] Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm.” (ESV)

God warns believers about the ongoing battle between His followers and the devil’s followers. He wants us to rightly understand the underlying issues of our struggles that we may daily rely on God’s strength and not our own. Here are some important truths to understand about spiritual warfare.

6. Putting on God’s Armor of Light

www.spiritualwarfare.blog/armor

Romans 13:12 “The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light.” (ESV)

1 Thessalonians 5:8 “But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation.” (ESV)

God calls us to go into battle covered in His armor of light and wielding the “sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.” This section will help you to hear God’s commands and wisdom of how to live life in a way that takes into account the reality of our spiritual battles.

7. Resisting Satan’s Schemes

www.spiritualwarfare.blog/schemes

Ephesians 6:11 “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.” (ESV)

2 Corinthians 2:11 “so that we would not be outwitted by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his designs.” (ESV)

James 4:7–8 “Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.” (ESV)

God wants us to be informed of our enemy’s strategies and tactics. We have a responsibility and urgent call to resist the attacks of our enemies. In this section we will hear many of the ways God shares of how to resist Satan’s temptations and deception.

8. Prayer and Fasting

www.spiritualwarfare.blog/prayer

Ephesians 6:18 “praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints” (ESV)

God cares for us by growing and changing us through our time with Him in prayer and fasting. As we receive God’s Bible truths, we get to respond to Him and ask Him for knowledge, understanding, wisdom, and help in our times of need.

9. Biblical Health

www.spiritualwarfare.blog/health

3 John 2–4 “Beloved, I pray that all may go well with you and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul. [3] For I rejoiced greatly when the brothers came and testified to your truth, as indeed you are walking in the truth. [4] I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth.” (ESV)

God speaks to us wholistically through the Scriptures, desiring us to be healthy spiritually but also physically, mentally, emotionally, financially, relationally, and sexually. He wants us to fulfill His purposes for us in our homes, workplaces, churches and wherever we go. This section will help you to evaluate your health, identify strengths and weakness, and walk forward in God’s truths for life.

10. Evangelism and Missions

www.spiritualwarfare.blog/missions

Ephesians 6:18–20 “praying ... also for me, that words may be given to me in opening my mouth boldly to proclaim the mystery of the gospel, [20] for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may declare it boldly, as I ought to speak.” (ESV)

The Christian life is a life called to love in action. We must be on the offense in sharing the hope of the Gospel news of Jesus Christ. This section will encourage and equip you to tell others about the loving life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

11. Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

www.spiritualwarfare.blog/faqs

1 Peter 3:15 “but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect” (ESV)

Colossians 4:5–6 “Walk in wisdom toward outsiders, making the best use of the time. [6] Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer each person.” (ESV)

Ephesians 4:11–14 “And he gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, [12] to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, [13] until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ, [14] so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes.” (ESV)

There are many other questions you may have that this book has not yet answered. This section will answer a few of those questions but will also challenge you to think biblically through other questions and scenarios you have already faced or that you

may face in the future.

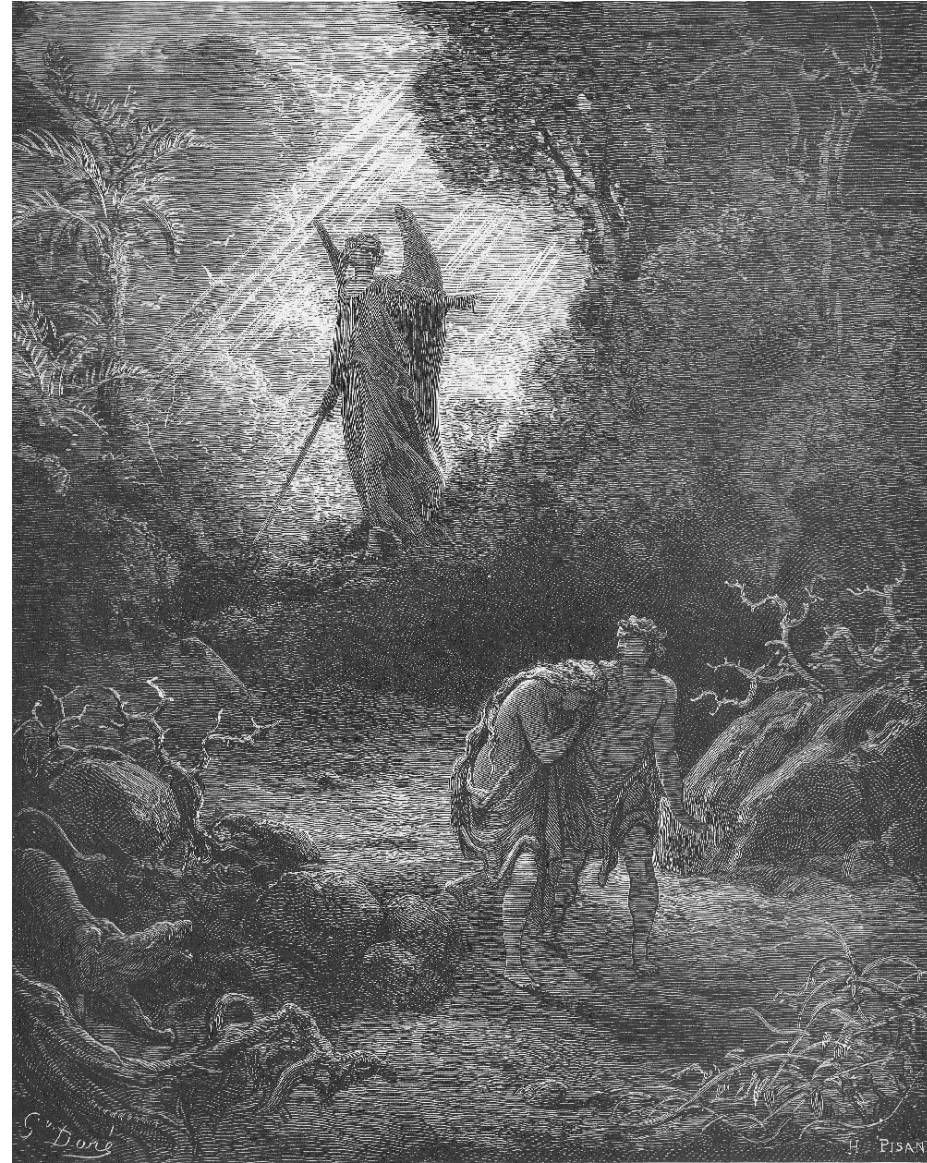
SECTION 3: BELIEVERS & UNBELIEVERS

Free Video Lectures @
[www.spiritualwarfare.blog/
believers-unbelievers](http://www.spiritualwarfare.blog/believers-unbelievers)

1 John 3:10 “By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.” (ESV)

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Humanity is divided by those who follow Jesus in faith (Christian believers) and those who follow Satan, the world, and their fleshly sin (unbelievers). It is essential to understand the identities of both groups as well as the evidences of their character and works. There is no neutral ground in this battle of the followers of Christ against the spiritual forces of evil. Here are some truths to help us be aware of who we are and rightly see the world around us with a spiritual understanding.



ADAM AND EVE DRIVEN OUT OF EDEN

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE NAMES OF BELIEVERS?

He Has Made Us...

Psalm 8:3-9

Be Humbled - God Care-fully Made You

[3] When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, [4] what is man that you are mindful of him, and the son of man that you care for him?

In the Creation - He Has Made Us Remarkable

[5] Yet you have made him a little lower than the heavenly beings and crowned him with glory and honor. [6] You have given him dominion over the works of your hands; you have put all things under his feet, [7] all sheep and oxen, and also the beasts of the field, [8] the birds of the heavens, and the fish of the sea, whatever passes along the paths of the seas. [9] O LORD, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth!

What Does the Bible say About Christian Identity?

The greatest gift of Christianity is not merely a future existence in Heaven, but is the present and eternal reality of a relationship and unity with Christ (John 15:1-11, 1 Corinthians 6:17). As Christians we must realize that we are not products of our past or present decisions, failures, or successes. Our identity, value,

& worth are rooted in our new name and identity in Christ. We focus on knowing God first and foremost and simultaneously discover our amazing nature as God's forever adopted children.

In Christ, I Am....

See "Who I Am in Christ" from Freedom in Christ Ministries (www.ficm.org/about-us/who-i-am-in-christ/) or Rose Publishing's "Who I Am In Christ" (<https://www.hendricksonrose.com/page/wl/hr/hr-series/hr-who-i-am-in-christ-series>)

Accepted

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God." (Romans 15:7 ESV)

Aroma of Christ.

But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. [15] For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, [16] to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? [17] For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ. (2 Corinthians 2:14-17 ESV)

Blessed.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, (Ephesians 1:3 ESV)

Born of God

"But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God." (John 1:12-13 ESV)

Called to Not Fear or Worry.

- "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me." (John 14:1 ESV)
- fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. (Isaiah 41:10 ESV)
- "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. [9] Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:8-9 ESV)
- do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. [7] And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7 ESV)
- So we can confidently say, "The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?" (Hebrews 13:6 ESV)

Children and Heirs of God.

- The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, [17] and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him. (Romans 8:16-17 ESV)
- And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" [7] So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. (Galatians 4:6-7 ESV)
- "I will be a father to you, and you shall be sons and daughters to me, says the Lord Almighty." (2 Corinthians 6:18 ESV)

Chosen and Adopted.

even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love [5] he predestined us for adoption as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, (Ephesians 1:4-5 ESV)

Citizens of Heaven.

- But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, [21] who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself. (Philippians 3:20-21 ESV)
- For here we have no lasting city, but we seek the city that is to come. (Hebrews 13:14)
- So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God (Ephesians 2:19 ESV)

Comforted and Comforters.

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, [4] who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. (2 Corinthians 1:3-4 ESV)

Crucified, Buried, Risen, and Free with Christ.

We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life. [5] For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. [6] We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. [7] For one who has died has been set free from sin. [8] Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. (Romans 6:4-8 ESV)

Empowered Representatives.

- Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:20 ESV)
- “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” (Acts 1:8)

Filled with God's Holy Spirit.

Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’ [39] Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. (John 7:38-39 ESV)

Forgiven.

- In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, (Ephesians 1:7 ESV)
- He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, [14] in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (Colossians 1:13-14)
- 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, [14] by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands. This he set aside, nailing it to the cross. (Colossians 2:13-14 ESV)

Free

John 8:32–38 “you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. ... So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.”

Friend.

No longer do I call you servants, for the servant does not know

what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. (John 15:15 ESV)

Heard.

And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. [15] And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him. (1 John 5:14-15 ESV)

Inconceivably Rich.

For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, yet for your sake he became poor, so that you by his poverty might become rich. (2 Corinthians 8:9 ESV)

Justified and Made Righteous.

- For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. [18] Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. [19] For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. (Romans 5:17-19 ESV)
- For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV)

Known.

- "I know my own and my own know me." (John 10:14 ESV)
- "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you." (Jeremiah 1:5 ESV)

Light of the World.

"You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. [15] Nor do people light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a stand, and it gives light to all in the house. [16] In the

same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:14-16 ESV)

Loved.

- What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? (Romans 8:31)
- I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you. (Jeremiah 31:3 ESV)
- "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16 ESV)

New Creation.

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. (2 Corinthians 5:17 ESV)

Never Alone.

"And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20 ESV)

Part of the Body of Christ.

- For as in one body we have many members, and the members do not all have the same function, [5] so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. (Romans 12:4-5 ESV)
- Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. (2 Corinthians 5:20 ESV)

Purchased and Purposed.

- Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, [20] for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ESV)
- For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them. (Ephesians 2:10 ESV)

- All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; [19] that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18-19 ESV)

Reconciled with God.

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; [19] that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. (2 Corinthians 5:18–19 ESV)

Redeemed, Rescued, and Saved. (Ephesians 1:13-14, Matthew 20:28, Romans 5:8)

- In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, [14] who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory. (Ephesians 1:13–14 ESV)
- even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many. (Matthew 20:28 ESV)
- God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. (Romans 5:8 ESV)

Saints.

- But sexual immorality and all impurity or covetousness must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints. (Ephesians 5:3 ESV)
- Greet every saint in Christ Jesus. The brothers who are with me greet you. Philippians 4:21)
- But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for his own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light. [10] Once you were not a people, but now

you are God's people; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10 ESV)

Salt of the Earth.

“You are the salt of the earth, but if salt has lost its taste, how shall its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything except to be thrown out and trampled under people's feet.” (Matthew 5:13 ESV)

Sealed.

And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, [22] and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee. (2 Corinthians 1:21–22 ESV)

Secure.

- For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, [39] nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38-39 ESV)
- But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, [5] even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—[6] and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, [7] so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephesians 2:4-7 ESV)

Strengthened.

- For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:10 ESV)
- Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. (1 John 4:4 ESV)
- I can do all things through him who strengthens me.

(Philippians 4:13 ESV)

Truly Alive. Alive Forever.

- For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 6:23 ESV)
- Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?” (John 11:25-26 ESV)
- Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. (Romans 6:8 ESV)
- For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (Philippians 1:21 ESV)

The Temple of God and of Priceless Worth.

Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God? You are not your own, [20] for you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 ESV)

United with God.

- But he who is joined to the Lord becomes one spirit with him. (1 Corinthians 6:17 ESV)
- For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. [4] When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. (Colossians 3:3-4 ESV)

Victorious.

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. (Romans 8:37)

Washed. Cleaned. Declared Innocent. Atoned. Not Condemned.

- And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.” (Isaiah 6:7 ESV)
- And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God. (1 Corinthians

6:11 ESV)

- There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death. (Romans 8:1-2 ESV)

Who Are You?

5 Important Identity Questions

- 1. Have You Received the Gift of Identity in Christ?**
- 2. Will You Believe You Are Who Jesus Made You?**
- 3. Will You Love Who Jesus Made You?**
- 4. Will You Live Like Jesus Made You?**
- 5. Will You Share Who Jesus Made You?**

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE WORKS OF BELIEVERS?

What are Evidences of True Belief?

Our Christian Job Description

Psalm 9:2 & Ephesians 2:10 (ESV)

The Why: The Source & Purpose of Our Life

Enjoy God

Psalm 9:2 “I will be glad and exult in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High.”

- Christian Hedonism - “God is most glorified in us, when we are most satisfied in Him.” ~ John Piper - www.desiringgod.org
- Exult - to feel or show triumphant elation or jubilation
- Praise - to express warm approval or admiration of

Serve God

- Ephesians 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.”
- Joshua 24:14–15 “Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your

fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

What does it look like to live for God? What is a Christian's job description?

“If Jesus Christ be God and died for me, then no sacrifice can be too great for me to make for Him.” C.T. Studd

The What: The Christian Job Description

1. **Prioritize God in Your Heart.**
2. **Follow Genuine Jesus, Avoid Fake gods.**
3. **Honor God's Name with Your Lips & Life.**
4. **Show Up Sincerely On Sunday.**
5. **Respect & Obey Your Parents.**
6. **Love Lives Personally.**
7. **Honor Your Marriage Vows.**
8. **Work Hard & Honestly.**
9. **Speak Truth.**
10. **Be Content.**

The How: 10 Ways to Live for God

1. Listen.

Psalm 119:11 “I have stored up your word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.”

2. Obey.

Imitate the Holiness of God

- 1 John 5:3 “For this is the love of God, that we keep his

commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.”

- 1 Peter 1:14–16 “As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, ‘You shall be holy, for I am holy.’”

3. Love.

- Matthew 5:16 “In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”
- Mark 12:30–31 “you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart & with all your soul & with all your mind & with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”
- John 13:34–35 “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.”

4. Fellowship.

- Acts 2:42, 46 “they devoted themselves to the ... fellowship And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts”

5. Serve. Give. Go & Love.

- Acts 2:44-45 “And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings & distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need.”
- Romans 12:6–8 “Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.”
- 1 Corinthians 12:27-31 “Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it. And God has appointed in the church

first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then miracles, then gifts of healing, helping, administrating, and various kinds of tongues.”

6. Worship.

- Acts 2:42, 43, 47 “they devoted themselves to the ... breaking of bread ... awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. ... praising God”

7. Evangelize. Go & Tell.

- Acts 2:47 “having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

8. Pray & Fast.

- Matthew 6:9 “Pray then like this...”
- Matthew 6:16 “And when you fast...”
- Ezra 8:21 “Then I proclaimed a fast there, at the river Ahava, that we might humble ourselves before our God, to seek from him a safe journey for ourselves, our children, and all our goods.”

9. Learn. Go & Teach.

- Acts 2:42 “And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching”
- Matthew 28:19–2 “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

10. Forgive.

- 1 John 2:9 “Whoever says he is in the light and hates his brother is still in darkness.”
- Matthew 6:14-15 “For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.”

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE CHARACTER OF BELIEVERS?

What Are True Believers Like?

How Can I Be Sure I Am a Christian?

Galatians 5:22–24 ~ Philippians 4:8–9 (ESV)

Know the Evidence of Spiritual Lostness

Galatians 5:19–21 “Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, [20] idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, [21] envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

KNOW THE EVIDENCE OF SPIRITUAL LIFE: CHRISTIAN CHARACTER

Galatians 5:22–23 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.”

Test Yourself for Christian Character

- Lamentations 3:40 “Let us test and examine our ways, and

return to the LORD!”

- Psalm 26:2 “Prove me, O LORD, and try me; test my heart and my mind.”
- Psalm 139:23–24 “Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! And see if there be any grievous way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting!”
- 2 Corinthians 13:5 “Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—unless indeed you fail to meet the test!”
- Galatians 5:24 “And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

Resist the Character-Killer, Satan

- Romans 13:12–14 “The night is far gone; the day is at hand. So then let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. [13] Let us walk properly as in the daytime, not in orgies and drunkenness, not in sexual immorality and sensuality, not in quarreling and jealousy. [14] But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.”
- 1 John 5:18–19 “We know that everyone who has been born of God does not keep on sinning, but he who was born of God protects him, and the evil one does not touch him. We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.”
- Ephesians 6:11–12 “Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. [12] For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”

Avoid Christian Character-Killers

- Ephesians 4:30 “And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”
- 1 Thessalonians 5:19 “Do not quench the Spirit.”

- 1 Thessalonians 2:4 “but just as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, so we speak, not to please man, but to please God who tests our hearts.”

Mentally Take in Christian Character

- Philippians 4:8 “Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

Practice Christian Character

- Philippians 4:9 “What you have learned and received and heard and seen in me—practice these things, and the God of peace will be with you.”
- 1 Thessalonians 4:1 “Finally, then, brothers, we ask and urge you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us how you ought to walk and to please God, just as you are doing, that you do so more and more.”
- Galatians 5:26 “Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.”

Suffer Well for More Christian Character

Romans 5:3–5 “Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, [4] and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, [5] and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE NAMES OF UNBELIEVERS?

God speaks clearly about the serious state of unbelief. May the Lord use these descriptions for the conviction and salvation of the lost. May believers have a great passion and urgency in sharing the Gospel hope with their lost neighbors, friends, family, and strangers.

1 John 3:8–10 “Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil. [9] No one born of God makes a practice of sinning, for God’s seed abides in him; and he cannot keep on sinning, because he has been born of God. By this it is evident who are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.” (ESV)

Romans 8:7 “the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God’s law, nor can it do so.”

- **Accursed** - Psalm 119:21 “You rebuke the insolent, accursed ones, who wander from your commandments.”
- **Children of the Devil** - 1 John 3:10 “By this it is evident who

are the children of God, and who are the children of the devil: whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is the one who does not love his brother.”

- **Crooked** - Proverbs 28:18 “Whoever walks in integrity will be delivered, but he who is crooked in his ways will suddenly fall.”
- **Dead** - Ephesians 2:1-10 “And you were dead in the trespasses and sins”
- **Disobedient, Detestable** - Titus 1:16 “They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work.”
- **Drunkard, Glutton** - Proverbs 23:20 “Be not among drunkards or among gluttonous eaters”
- **Enslaved** - Galatians 4:8 “Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods.”
- **Evil** - Matthew 12:35 “The good person out of his good treasure brings forth good, and the evil person out of his evil treasure brings forth evil.”
- **Fool** - Proverbs 28:26 “Whoever trusts in his own mind is a fool, but he who walks in wisdom will be delivered.”
- **Guilty** - Proverbs 21:8 “The way of the guilty is crooked, but the conduct of the pure is upright.”
- **Indebted** - Colossians 2:14 “by canceling the record of debt that stood against us with its legal demands”
- **Lost** - Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
- **Sinner** - Luke 18:13 “But the tax collector, standing far off, would not even lift up his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, a sinner!’”
- **Scoffer** - Jude 18 “They said to you, ‘In the last time there will be scoffers, following their own ungodly passions.’”
- **Sluggard** - Proverbs 6:9 “How long will you lie there, O sluggard? When will you arise from your sleep?”
- **Violent** - Psalm 140:11 “let evil hunt down the violent man speedily!”
- **Wicked** - John 3:20 “For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his works should be

exposed.”

- **Worldly** - Jude 19 “It is these who cause divisions, worldly people, devoid of the Spirit.”
- **Gossips, Slanderers, Haters of God, Insolent, Haughty, Boastful, Inventors of Evil, Disobedient to Parents, Foolish, Faithless, Heartless, Ruthless** - Romans 1:29–31 “They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless.”
- **Cowardly, Faithless, Detestable, Murderers, Sexually Immoral, Sorcerers, Idolaters, Liars** - Revelation 21:8 “But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”
- **Unrighteous, Deceived, Sexually Immoral, Idolaters, Adulterers, Men Who Practice Homosexuality, Thieves, Greedy, Drunkards, Revilers, Swindlers** - 1 Corinthians 6:9–10 “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God.”
- **Lovers of Self, Lovers of Money, Proud, Arrogant, Abusive, Disobedient to their Parents, Ungrateful, Unholy, Heartless, Unappeasable, Slanderous, Without Self-Control, Brutal, Not Loving Good, Treacherous, Reckless, Swollen with Conceit, Lovers of Pleasure** - 2 Timothy 3:2–5 “For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.”

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE WORKS OF UNBELIEVERS?

What Are Evidences of Unbelief?

Unbelievers' Works - What Do They Do?

Unbelievers, no matter their verbal claims to faith, have works of their lips and lives that show...

1. Ongoing Disobedience to God.

Titus 1:16 "They profess to know God, but they deny him by their works. They are detestable, disobedient, unfit for any good work."

2. A Love of the World.

Matthew 7:17-20 "So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits."

3. A Love of Pleasure and Lack of Self-Control.

1 Corinthians 5:8-11 "Let us therefore celebrate the festival, not with the old leaven, the leaven of malice and evil, but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth. I wrote to you in my

letter not to associate with sexually immoral people— not at all meaning the sexually immoral of this world, or the greedy and swindlers, or idolaters, since then you would need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother if he is guilty of sexual immorality or greed, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or swindler—not even to eat with such a one."

4. Habitual Practice of Unrepentant Sin - Examples: Sexual Immorality, Idolatry (Coveting), Adultery (Lust), Homosexuality, Stealing, Greed, Drunkenness (Substance Use for a High), Partying, and Dishonest Gain

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 "Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

5. Opposition to Love - Impatience, Envy, Bragging, Arrogance, Rudeness, Self-Focus, Easily Irritated, Resentful/Bitter, Disobedient, Ignorant of Truth

1 Corinthians 13:4-7 "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things."

6. Opposition to the Holy Spirit - Examples: Sexual Immorality, Impurity, Sensuality, Idolatry, Sorcery, Enmity, Strife, Jealousy, Fits of Anger, Rivalries, Dissensions, Divisions, Envy, Drunkenness, Orgies, and Things Like These.

Galatians 5:17-21 "For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you

want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.”

7. Opposition to God’s Law

1 Timothy 1:8–11 “ Now we know that the law is good, if one uses it lawfully, understanding this, that the law is not laid down for the just but for the lawless and disobedient, for the ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for those who strike their fathers and mothers, for murderers, the sexually immoral, men who practice homosexuality, enslavers, liars, perjurers, and whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been entrusted.”

8. They Will Suffer Forever in Hell

Revelation 21:8 “But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

THE LOST AMONG US: 12 TRUTHS

Luke 15 (ESV)

1. Jesus Purposely Came for the Lost

- Luke 19:10 “For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost.”
- Ezekiel 34:16 “I will seek the lost, and I will bring back the strayed, and I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and the fat and the strong I will destroy. I will feed them in justice.
- The Lost can’t “find” or “save” themselves

2. We Get Lost By Our Sinful Choices

- Psalm 119:176 “I have gone astray like a lost sheep; seek your servant”

3. False Teachers Lead Souls Into Lostness

- Jeremiah 50:6 “My people have been lost sheep. Their shepherds have led them astray, turning them away on the mountains. From mountain to hill they have gone. They have forgotten their fold.”

4. Stay Humbled By & In Awe of God’s Finding & Saving - Mercy & Grace

- 1 Corinthians 6:9–11 “Or do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the kingdom of God? Do not be deceived: neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor men who practice homosexuality, nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor swindlers will inherit the kingdom

of God. And such were some of you. But you were washed, you were sanctified, you were justified in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and by the Spirit of our God."

5. Faithful Believers Have Responsibility for Seeking the Lost

- Ezekiel 34:4 "The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them."
- Matthew 10:5-7 "These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them, 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles and enter no town of the Samaritans, but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And proclaim as you go, saying, 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"

6. Be Passionate for the Salvation of the Lord - Their Situation Is Urgent & Serious

- Luke 15:4 "What man of you, having a hundred sheep, if he has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine in the open country, & go after the one that is lost, until he finds it?"
- Luke 15:8 "Or what woman, having ten silver coins, if she loses one coin, does not light a lamp and sweep the house and seek diligently until she finds it?"

7. Saved Humans Rejoice Over Saved Souls

- Luke 15:6 "And when he comes home, he calls together his friends and his neighbors, saying to them, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found my sheep that was lost.'"
- Luke 15:9-10 "And when she has found it, she calls together her friends and neighbors, saying, 'Rejoice with me, for I have found the coin that I had lost.'"

8. Heavenly Beings Rejoice Over Saved Souls

- Luke 15:7 "Just so, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous

persons who need no repentance."

- Luke 15:10 "Just so, I tell you, there is joy before the angels of God over one sinner who repents."

9. God Rejoices Over Saved Souls

- Luke 15:20 "And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him."
- Luke 15:22-23 "But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.'"

10. Saved Souls Truly Repent

- Luke 15:21 "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'"

11. The Gospel = Lost Are Found and the Dead Are Made Alive

- Luke 15:24 "For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate."
- Luke 15:32 "It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

12. The Gospel Invite Continues for the Lost

- Luke 15:1-2 "Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.'"
- Luke 15:28-31 "But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. [30] But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the

fattened calf for him!' [31] And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.'

WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY ABOUT THE CHARACTER OF UNBELIEVERS?

*Unbelievers' Character –
What Are They Like?*

Unbelievers are...

1. Captured by Satan to Do His Will

2 Timothy 2:26 “and they may come to their senses and escape from the snare of the devil, after being captured by him to do his will”

2. Follow Their Own Path Rather than Submit to God

Romans 1:28–32 “And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. [29] They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, [30] slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, [31] foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. [32] Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them. (ESV)

3. Prioritize Desires (What Feels Good and Appears Good) and

the Pride of Life (Self-Focus, Self-Love)

1 John 2:16–17 “For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world. And the world is passing away along with its desires, but whoever does the will of God abides forever.”

The Prodigal Story

In Luke 15 Jesus tells the story of a Father with two sons to explain God’s love for humanity. In the story he describes lostness and unbelief as seen in both sons, with a focus on what true repentance and belief looks like when the “prodigal son” repents and returns home to his father.

Luke 15:11–13 “There was a man who had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.” (ESV)

Prodigals Have...

Luke 15:14–16 “And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.”

- 1. Rebelled against God**
- 2. Run from God**
- 3. Avoided Christian Reminders - Church, Bible, Christians**
- 4. Past Regrets Towards God**
- 5. Past Regrets Towards Others**
- 6. Wasted their Lives on Trivialities**
- 7. Real Suffering - No True Peace, Hope, or Joy**

Luke 15:17–19 “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I

am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”

Prodigals Have a Heavenly Father Who Is...

Luke 15:20–24 “And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.”

- 1. Over Them - Kingly Authority and Power**
- 2. Watching Them - Knows Everything**
- 3. Compassionate Towards Them**
- 4. Lovingly Patient with Them**
- 5. Forgiving Towards the Repentant**
- 6. Merciful and Gracious**

Christians Have a Purpose and a Message

2 Peter 3:9 “The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.”

2 Corinthians 5:11 “Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade others.”

- 1. Surrender to Jesus’ Loving Control**
- 2. Speak Truth to a Deceived World**
- 3. Show Love to the Hateful**
- 4. Share Jesus Persuasively**

2 Corinthians 5:14–21 “For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer

live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised. 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. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.”

A Christian Response Towards Unbelief

1. Humility

2. Compassion

3. Truth

4. Love

5. Faith-Filled Action

- Jude 22–23 “And have mercy on those who doubt; save others by snatching them out of the fire; to others show mercy with fear, hating even the garment stained by the flesh.” (ESV)
- Proverbs 11:30 “The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life, and whoever captures souls is wise.”
- James 5:20 “let him know that whoever brings back a sinner from his wandering will save his soul from death and will cover a multitude of sins.”

“If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprayed for.” - Charles Spurgeon

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Dr. Jonathan Carl



Jonathan Carl grew up in the great state of Texas as the oldest of six kids. He graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point and served in the U.S. Army as a tanker with a combat tour in Iraq in the early 2000s. He had the joy of journeying to Kentucky where he met and married his wonderful wife, Brittney. Several years later he became the lead pastor at South Fork Baptist Church where he has served for over a decade. He enjoyed the opportunities to study and earn his Master of Divinity and Doctor of Philosophy degrees in Evangelism & Missions from the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. Jonathan & Brittney have four daughters (Sophia, Lydia, Alia & Mia) with whom they enjoy spending every spare

minute they can.



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