

Comrades in Arms

Luke 24: 32



"And they said to one another, 'Did not our heart burn within us while He talked with us on the road, and while He opened the Scriptures to us?'"
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I. Introduction: CHRIST-CENTERED LIFE

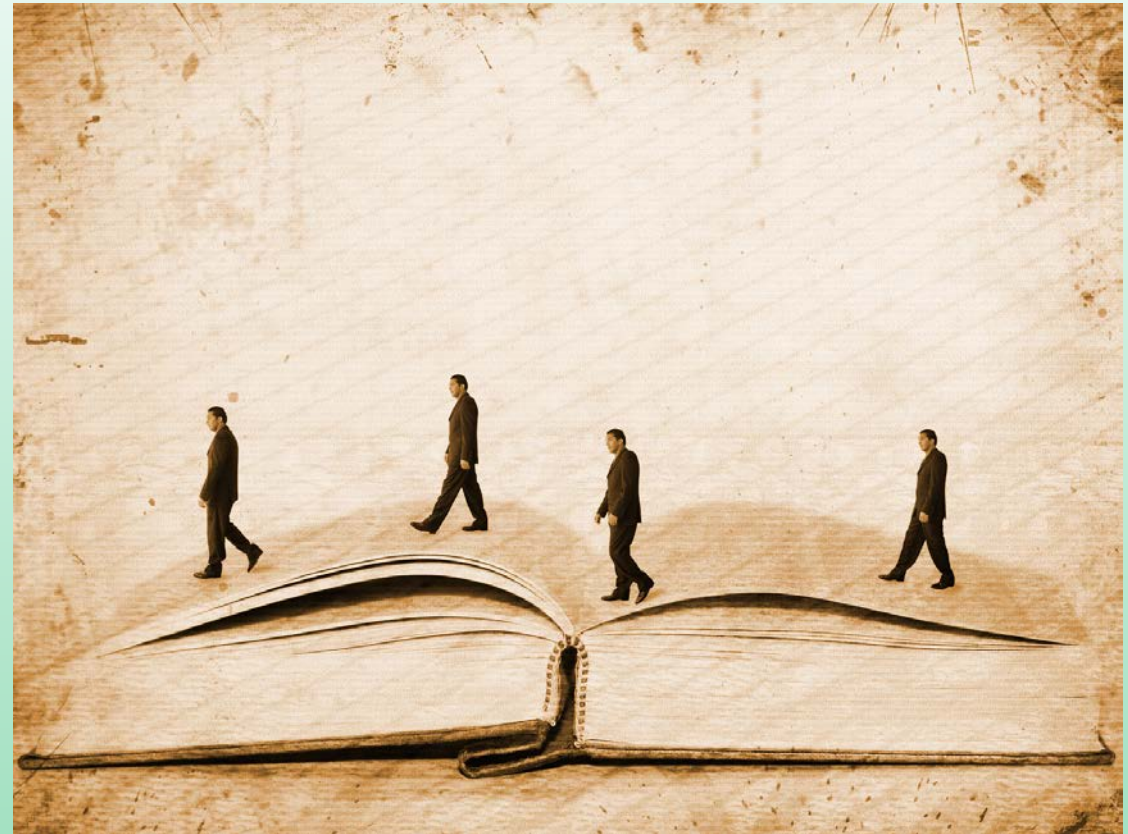
Jesus Christ transformed the life of His disciples on the road to Emmaus. Because of the crucifixion, they lost the right vision and focused on defeat, injustices, and despair. When He came back to their life, everything was different. We are in the same situation. Without Jesus we have no future. With Him, we have victory, peace, joy, and hope.



“The desire to be happy is the same as the desire of being hungry. It is a God-given thing, written right on our hearts. God put Himself as the all-satisfying center of all joy. The reason you are not happy, if you are not, is because you have not gotten to the center yet.”
James Macdonald



"D. L. Moody said, "Out of one hundred men, one will read the Bible, the other ninety-nine will read the Christian." This is why we need Christ-centered Christians. By reading them, people will see Christ. And by seeing Christ, they will become His followers. Ultimately, they will read the Scripture, to better know Christ Himself. The world need these Bible based, Christ-centered Christians"
(DS)



“Our motive for surrender should not be for any personal gain at all. We have become so self-centered that we go to God only for something from Him, and not for God Himself. It is like saying, “No, Lord, I don’t want you; I want myself. But I do want You to clean me and fill me with Your Holy Spirit. I want to be on display in Your showcase so I can say, ‘This is what God has done for me.’ ” Gaining heaven, being delivered from sin, and being made useful to God are things that should never even be a consideration in real surrender. Genuine total surrender is a personal sovereign preference for Jesus Christ Himself.”

Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost*, Mar 12

“Our homes need to be more Christ-centered. We should spend more time at the temple and less time in the pursuit of pleasure. We should lower the noise level in our homes so that the noise of the world will not overpower the still, small voice of the Holy Ghost. One of our greatest goals as parents should be to enjoy the power and influence of the Holy Ghost in our homes.”

Joseph B. Wirthlin



"A sermon without Christ in it is like a loaf of bread without any flour in it. No Christ in your sermon, sir? Then go home, and never preach again until you have something worth preaching."

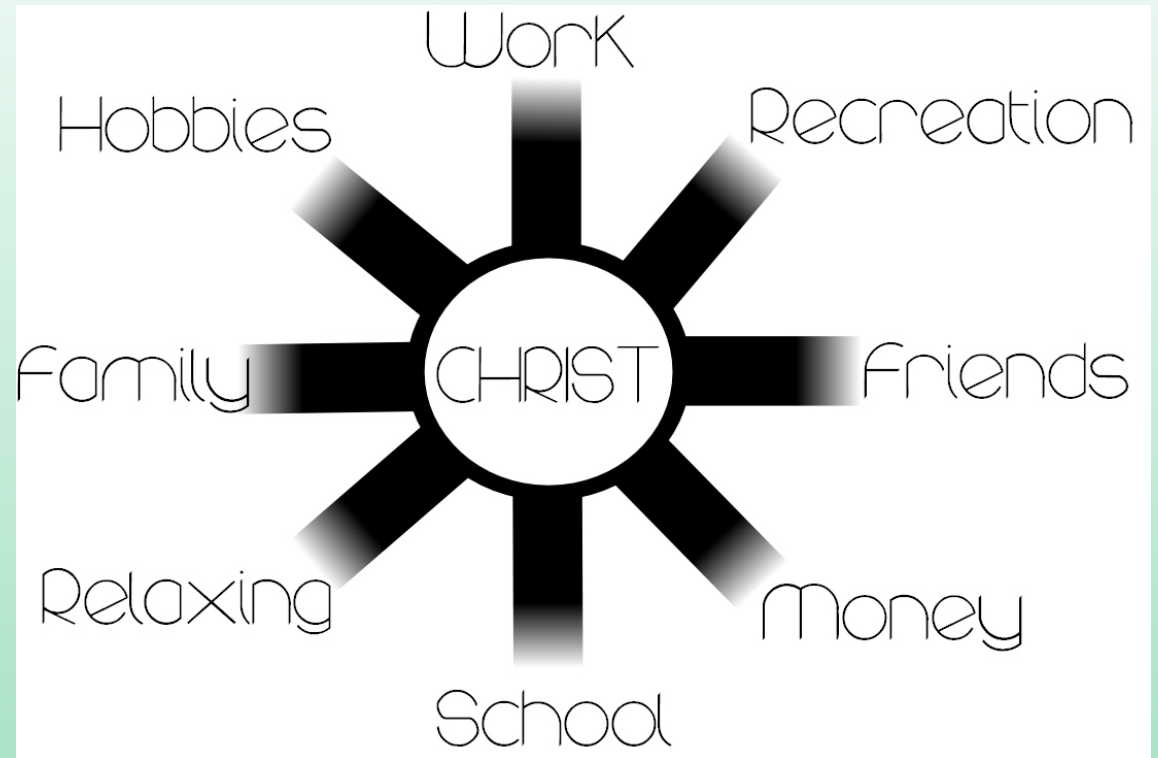
Charles Spurgeon, Exposition of Acts 13:13-49, published in 1904.



“We fail in the work of grace
and love when there is too much
of us and not enough of God.”
Suzanne Woods Fisher, The
Search



“The cause of division and discord in families and in the church is separation from Christ. To come near to Christ is to come near to one another. The secret of true unity in the church and in the family is not diplomacy, not management, not a superhuman effort to overcome difficulties—though there will be much of this to do—but union with Christ.”
Ellen G. White, *Adventist Home*, p. 179.



II. Context



The text about Jesus joining two disciples on their road to Emmaus is helping us to understand the desire of God to be close to us and to open our eyes in order to see the true reality. When our eyes are open, we will discover the beauty of His tremendous love.



Luke 24: 13 – 35 Structure

A	13	Walk of the disciples to Emmaus from Jerusalem
B	14	Conversation about crucifixion
C	15a	Jesus drew near the disciples
D	15b	Jesus walking with the disciples
E	16	Disciples' eyes were holden
F	17 – 19a	The sadness of the Disciples
G	19b - 21	Disciples explaining things about Jesus' crucifixion and their expectances
H	22 - 24	Astonishment through the witnessing of women
F'	25 - 26	Foolishness of the disciples
G'	27	Jesus explaining to the disciples things about Himself through the Bible
D'	28 - 29	Jesus staying with the disciples
C'	30	Jesus sat at the table with the disciples and blessed the bread
E'	31	The disciples' eyes were open at the moment of Jesus' disappearing
B'	32	Conversation about the risen Jesus
A'	33a	Walk of the disciples to Jerusalem from Emmaus
CONCL	33b - 35	CONCLUSION: Two disciples from Emmaus, witnesses of resurrection

Jesus' methodology applicable for the proclamation of the Good News

1	Establishing Proximity ("Jesus drew nearer." We need to mingle with people)
2	Spending Time ("Jesus went with them." We are invited to walk with people on their road)
3	Questioning (Jesus discussed with them about their sadness. Focus on people' concern)
4	Listening (Jesus listened to their interpretation of the past event. He understood their heart)
5	Explaining the Bible (Jesus found answers to their problem in the Bible)
6	Giving Freedom (He was willing to continue the road. Maintaining the right distance. Not forcing.)
7	Accepting the Invitation (They invited Him. He enjoyed their hospitality)
8	Sitting at the Table (Not only discussing about theology, but also sharing the simple events)
9	Praying (Blessing for the food. Evoking God's name. Prayer as the best bond for friendship)
10	Stepping Out (Recognizing the right moment to leave. The presence of the Holy Spirit with people)

The structure of the Gospel of Luke

In	1: 1 – 4	Search for Authentic Narrative about Jesus
1	1: 5 – 2: 50	Incarnation (Prophecies, John the Baptist and Jesus)
2	2: 50 – 4: 30	Nazareth (Baptism, Temptation, and Ministry in Nazareth)
3	4: 31 – 7 : 50	Capernaum (Headquarters of Jesus for his Ministry in Galilee)
4	8: 1 – 9: 50	Every City and Village
5	9: 51 – 19: 27	Trip to Jerusalem (Jesus' Ministry on the road, Samaria and Judea)
6	19: 28 – 21: 38	Jerusalem (Fulfillment of Jesus' Mission)
7	22: 1 – 23: 56	Jesus' Passion, Death, and Burial
8	24: 1 – 24: 53	Jesus' Resurrection, Post-resurrection Teaching, and Ascension

III. Jesus is the only solution for our exhausted hearts. He is able to find the way to transform the monotony of life and to give meaning and dignity to His followers.



1. For the disciples, the encounter with Jesus is always the most important topic for discussions

"And they said to one another"



“So we need to talk
about Jesus: to more
people, more often, and
more relevantly.”
Andrew Brown



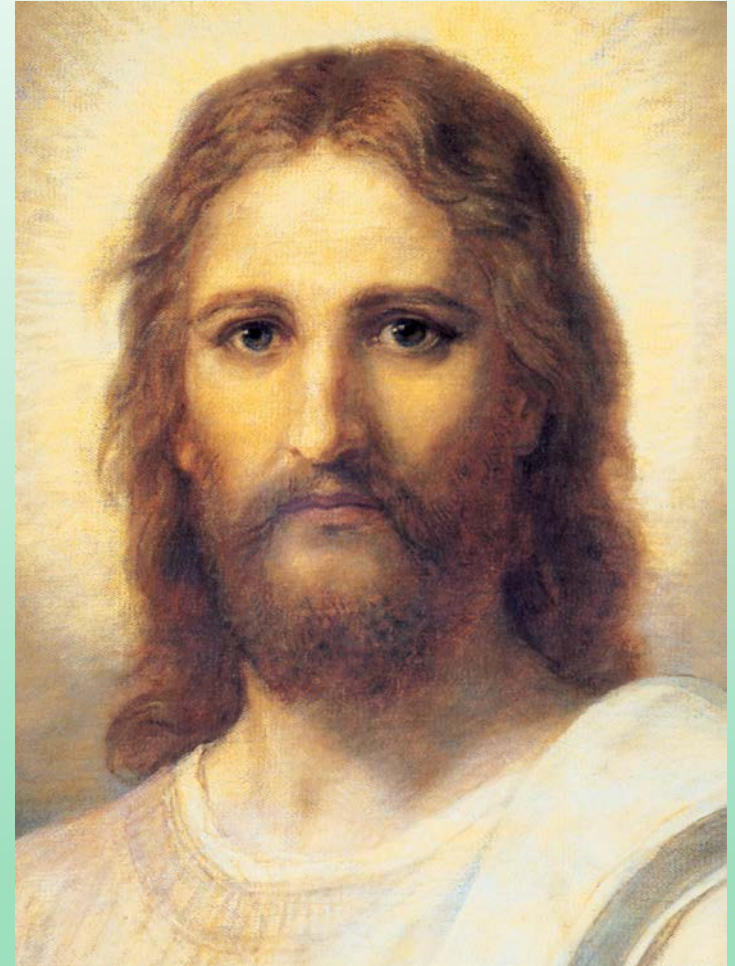
“You should not talk so much about yourself, for this will strengthen no one. You should not make yourself a center and imagine that you must be constantly caring for yourself and leading others to care for you. Get your mind off from yourself into a more healthy channel. Talk of Jesus, and let self go; let it be submerged in Christ, and let this be the language of your heart: “I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me” (Galatians 2:20). Jesus will be to you a present help in every time of need. He will not leave you to battle with the powers of darkness alone. Oh, no; He has laid help upon One that is mighty to save to the uttermost.”

Ellen G. White, Testimonies for the Church, vol. II, p. 320. 321. (1869)

"I am an historian,
I am not a believer,
but I must confess as
a historian that this
penniless preacher
from Nazareth is
irrevocably the very
center of history.
Jesus Christ is easily
the most dominant
figure in all history."
H.G. Wells, British
author



2. When Jesus speaks to us, our hearts are moved by His wisdom, His deep spiritual message, and His energy
“Did not our heart burn within us”



“The Word is proclaimed and the fire is ignited in the hearts of those who hear, but very little is ever done in response to the candling kending of the fire. Few, if any, opportunities for faith are given to those whose’s belief has been inspired. Few, if any, opportunities for receiving the fuel of Grace are provided. And, so, the fire begins the flicker and it eventually goes out.”
Gregory S. Neal



“We need to learn this secret of the burning heart. Suddenly Jesus appears to us, fires are set ablaze, and we are given wonderful visions; but then we must learn to maintain the secret of the burning heart— a heart that can go through anything. It is the simple, dreary day, with its commonplace duties and people, that smothers the burning heart— unless we have learned the secret of abiding in Jesus.”

Oswald Chambers



“We commit ourselves to live by: to turn away from our old ways and evils, to accept the freedom and power God is ready to give us, and to place Jesus in the center of our lives in charge of all things. If we accept these, then we also are called to live for Christ and not our old selves—to live as ambassadors for Christ in the world. We do this, not necessarily by beating folks up with Scripture quotes, as by living empowered by the Spirit and focused in love upon Jesus, so that our very being shines with the light of Christ. This is a life that flowers from faith that burns within our hearts with the divine energy of the Spirit.”

Ralph Howe

“Our eyes are holden that we cannot see things that stare us in the face, until the hour arrives when the mind is ripened; then we behold them, and the time when we saw them not is like a dream.”
Ralph Waldo Emerson



3. Jesus is ready to
take the road with us
“While He talked with us on
the road”



“Does Jesus speak to us today? He does. Every word of the Bible is the voice of Jesus. How do we know this? By inference. And better, by experience.

First by inference. We believe that “all Scripture is inspired by God” And we know that “whatever the Father does, the Son does likewise”. When the Father, by the Spirit was guiding the writing of Scripture, the will and heart of the Son was in perfect concert. Not only were all things *made* by the Father, with the Spirit, through the Son, but all things *are absolutely* through the Son: There is “one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things”. The inspiration of the Bible was through the Son. Therefore the Bible is the word of Jesus.

Second, by Experience. When we are born again, we have new ears. They are tuned to the frequency of the voice of Jesus. “The sheep follow him, for they know his voice. A stranger they will not follow, for they do not know the voice of strangers. . . My sheep hear my voice . . . and they follow me”. We know the Bible is the voice of Jesus because when we hear it we hear his voice.”

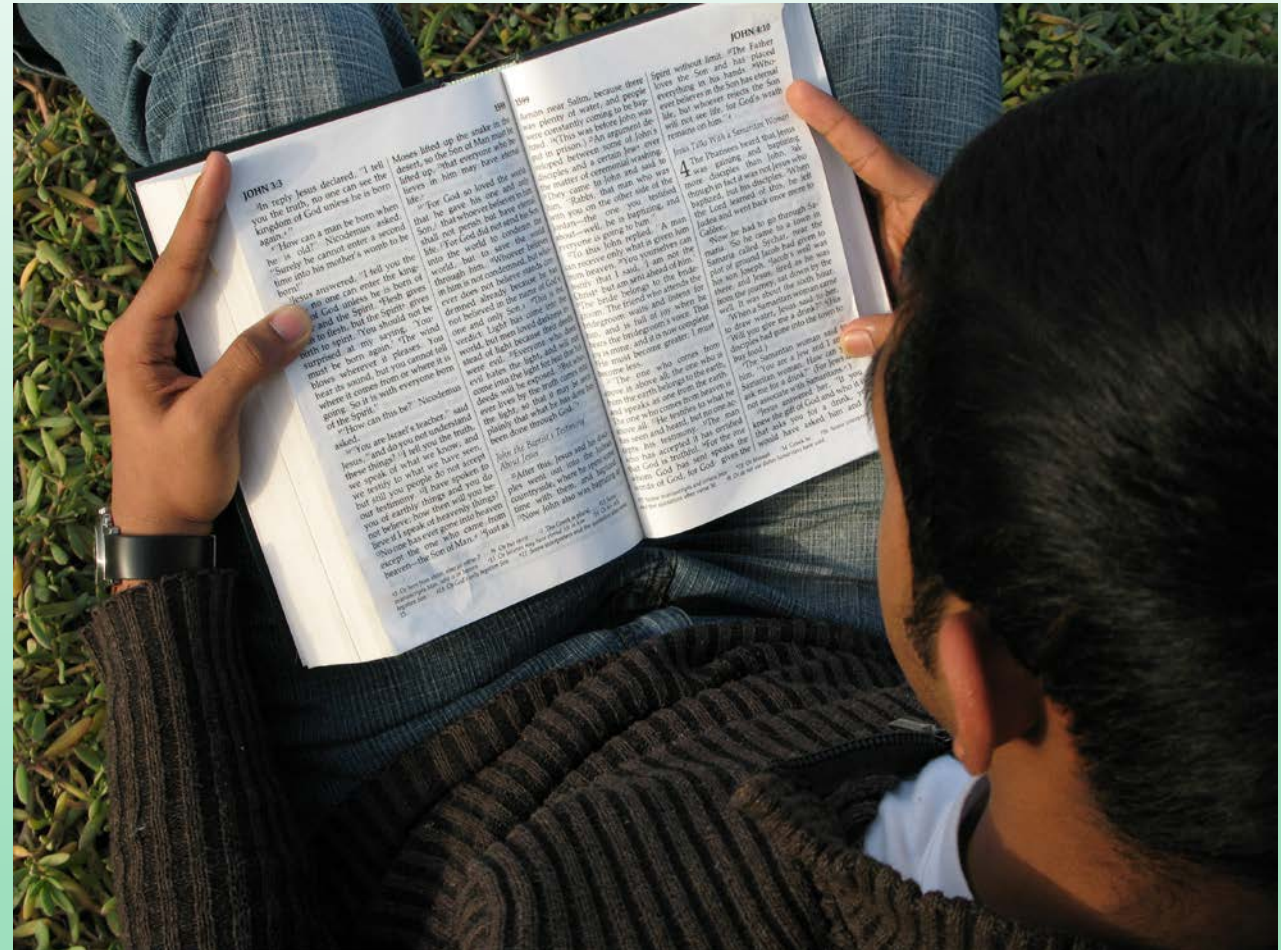
John Piper

“And He said to him, “Most assuredly, I say to you, hereafter you shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.” John 1: 51. This is Jesus talking about himself, not just showing us the steps to get to heaven, but being the steps to heaven. Jesus came down to earth not just to show us the way, but to be the Way!”

Monica Ranstrom



"In our prayers, we talk to God, in our Bible study, God talks to us, and we had better let God do most of the talking."
D.L. Moody



4. The Scriptures are Christ-centered and Christ is Bible-centered "And while He opened the Scriptures to us?"



“Christ is the subject of Scripture. The question is not whether the Bible is Christ-centered but how? Following the pattern established by Jesus and the apostles, we find that Christ is revealed by an extensive series of types (illustrations of the reality to come) in the history of redemption. Jesus and the Apostles, however, have clued us in to an even more profound way of reading Scripture whereby Jesus does not simply appear typologically, but as a pre-incarnate actor in the drama of creation, fall, and redemption. He was the agent of creation. John 1:3 says that “All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made that was made.”

Dr. R. Scott Clark

“Is it possible that a sermon about Christ might not be Christ-centered? Moral exhortations to live a more godly life fail to deliver moral transformation.”
Collin Hansen



"A Christ-centered life is shaped by two core convictions. The first conviction is that Jesus Christ is alive. As Christians, we do not follow a dead example but a living Lord. God raised Jesus from the dead, and he sits right now at the throne of God. But Jesus does not simply sit around. This is the second conviction: Jesus Christ is working right now on our behalf. The Bible describes Christ's ongoing work as his intercession for us: "Jesus Christ, who died, yes, who was raised, and who is at the right hand of God, who intercedes for us" (Rom 8:34). The crucified and resurrected Jesus Christ "lives to make intercession" for us (Heb 7:25). He is actively working for us in line with God's eternal will and plan."

Keith Johnson

V. Conclusion

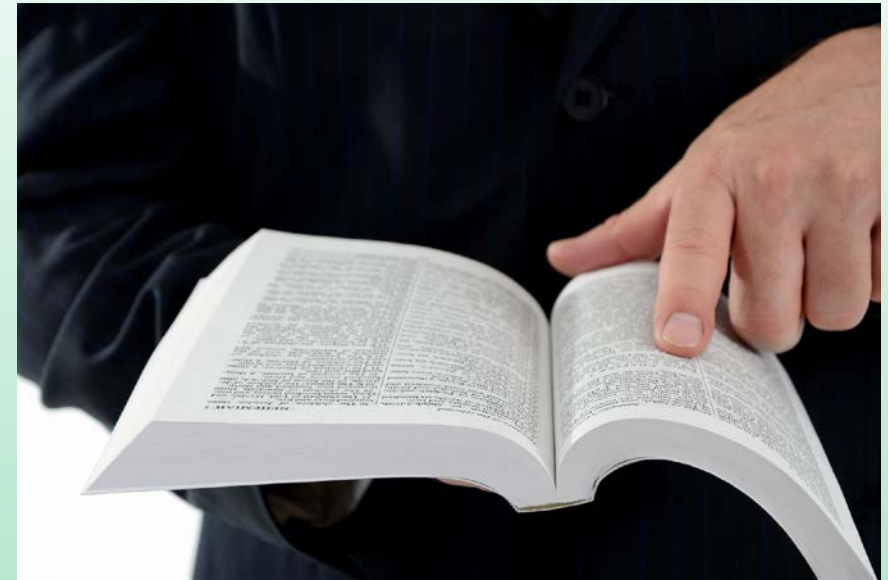


"As Christians, we cannot sit around in our homes and complain about the state of the world. Our lot in life is to serve, not to complain. If you don't like the world's direction, then get out and change it. Volunteer for a favorite organization, raise money, start a petition, just do something in the name of your Lord and Savior. The world has enough people sitting around and talking; Christ needs followers willing to do something.

The hallmark of a genuine Christian life is action in the name of our Savior. We live in a difficult time, and we don't have the luxury of comfortable Christianity. If you're unsure of how the Lord wants to use your time and talents, it's time to hit your knees and figure it out. Don't spend another day professing your faith without doing the work to back it up. The church needs you now."

Heather Hale

"Open the Bible. I know, I know, for a lot of people the Bible has become the last place they'd look for the presence of God. It's a hard book. Parts of it seem oppressive and out of date. It's gets used in heavy-handed ways. And it's still the Word of the Living God. It was when Jesus explained the scriptures to them that the two disciples felt their hearts on fire. If the Bible's not working for you, read a different part of it. Join a different study group. Find a different teacher. But don't give up on the Bible."
Glenn Schwerdtfeger



“May we all have the moral courage from this moment forward to more fully strive each day to think on Christ, learn of Him, walk in His steps, and do what He would have us to do.”
Ezra Taft Benson



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