

***Two
Statements
of Jesus***

That Can Change Your Life



From New Life Africa Networks

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*Two Statements of Jesus
That Can Change Your Life*

Introduction



Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock”

- Jesus Christ

We are glad that you decided to download this free e-booklet from the GlobalRadio.us website!

The Global Perspective radio feature and all of the free resources on the GlobalRadio.us website have been provided with two primary purposes in mind.

First, we hope these resources will help you to establish a stronger relationship with the Lord... one that will help you to find the contentment, peace, and joy that He wants His children to have as they go through life on this earth, with all of the challenges and difficulties that come our way

over the years.

Second, it is our hope that you will more fully realize that God created you with unique talents and abilities in order for you to live out His plans and purpose for your life.

A person who neglects using his or her gifts for Kingdom purposes is going to find it very difficult to reach a place of contentment. It's when we are in a solid relationship with the Lord, and focused on His plans and purposes for our lives that we find fulfillment in life.

May God work mightily in you today!

Chapter 1

Who Are You Listening To?



Above all else guard your heart. For everything you do flows from it”

As we go about our daily lives, we are inundated with information.

Conversations with friends and family, information coming over the radio and TV, and opinions of all kinds come flooding into our smart phones from a variety of websites and social media outlets all day long, every day!

Every day we are confronted with opinions and “wisdom” from a seemingly unlimited number of sources. Social media is filled with men and women and even young people who refer to themselves as “influencers”, and whether they have any true wisdom or legitimate credentials they are actively telling

others what to think.

Never before in human history have people faced so much input from so many sources. But, it's important to be careful who we listen to. In Proverbs 4, God says *“Above all else, guard your heart. For everything you do flows from it.”* (Proverbs 4:23, NIV)

What information we choose to listen to is pretty important. What goes into our hearts determines the course of our lives. That's what God says!

And, when God speaks we need to listen! And, we need to listen to God for several reasons.

First, we should listen to God simply because He loves us. When God said *"I have loved you with an everlasting love"* He meant it. God would never mislead or misguide us, and every instruction He gives us in scripture comes from a heart of love for us that is beyond our ability to comprehend.

The second reason we want to listen to God is simply that He is all knowing. God created the universe we live in, He created each of us, and nothing about our lives is unknown to Him.

God also knows what is best for us. He created *all* of us in His own image, but then He gave specific talents and abilities to each of us individually which He intends for us to use to carry out His plans and purposes.

We should listen to God because we belong to Him and He has the right to direct our lives through His holy word and His Holy Spirit. In 1 Corinthians 6, Paul wrote *"You do not belong to yourself, for God bought you with a high price."* (1 Cor. 6:19-20 NLT)

In the Bible God has communicated His intentions to us for the way we are to live our lives, the priorities we are to have, and the importance of having a living and meaningful relationship with Him. Though we would not deliberately disregard God's word, many of us have inadvertently disregarded His word by simply neglecting to learn it, or learning it but not carefully applying it to our lives.

We may not deliberately disregard His commands and instructions for our lives, but if we are not deliberately seeking to know God, and to know and obey His word then we may find ourselves inadvertently doing that.

Are you putting the time in each day to build that relationship with God that we all so desperately need in order to live our lives for Him?

Are we making the effort to take His Word into our hearts and to apply it to our lives? As Proverbs 4 tells us, it is the input you have going into our hearts that will direct the course of our lives. And, that is something to take very seriously!

Are you careful about what input you allow into your life each day?

Is your understanding of right and wrong influenced more by social media or current trends in thinking, or is it shaped primarily by the word of God?

Have your plans and priorities been formed by the teachings of God's word? And, is the use of your time, talent and treasure guided by what God teaches in His word?

God's desire is that we know Him, and that our minds and hearts are renewed and transformed by His word and His Spirit. He desires to live in us, and through us.

He desires that we live as His representatives in a world that is desperate for the Savior.

God desires that we really know Him and follow Him throughout our lives. That starts when we are careful to *"guard your hearts!"*

Make a plan to carefully and prayerfully weed out the input in your life that shouldn't be there.

Make sure that the word of God is living and active in your heart and mind today!

And, prayerfully think about the two statements of Jesus that follow. It is critical for us to hear these statements loud and clear!

Make a plan today to be more deliberate in what input is in your life

Chapter 2

A Simple Course Correction



"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me."

- Jesus Christ

During His time on the earth, Jesus made two comments that should radically alter the course of the lives of every Christian man, woman, and young person.

The first, is a statement that He made to his disciples the night before he went to the cross to pay the penalty for all of our sins. In that final conversation with His disciples, Jesus said *"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."* (John 14:6 NLT)

The gravity of this statement should cause all of us who know Jesus Christ as our Savior to set aside some time to stop and take inventory of the priorities we

have set for our lives and the way our time, talent, and treasure is put to use.

Jesus is telling us that no one will come to spend eternity with Him and the Father in Heaven unless they have received forgiveness of their sins...the free gift of salvation that God gives through Jesus! *Only* through Jesus.

We need to remind ourselves this reality applies to every member of our families, every friend we will ever have, every coworker, every neighbor, and countless billions around the world...*ALL* of them need to have the opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ! This is for us to prayerfully do.

Every person is, ultimately, responsible for deciding whether or not they will accept Jesus as their Savior. But, it is the responsibility of those of us who know Him to do everything we can to make sure they have the chance to hear. We must be faithful to tell everyone He gives us opportunity to share this news with.

How we share this good news will vary...you may be able to share Christ with someone over a cup of coffee. You may feel led to email a gospel tract to another. Or, you may play a supporting role in sharing Christ with many people by being part of the work of your church or other ministries that are reaching out and sharing the gospel message with people all over your community, and all over the world.

The main thing is that each of us takes very seriously what Jesus said to His disciples in John 14... *No one comes to the Father except through Him!* What a monumental tragedy it is for a person to face life without Christ, and then to enter eternity without Him...that

person will go from a bad scene here, to a horror show in eternity without Him!

Take a few minutes and think about the effect that knowing Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord has had on your life.

Then, take a few more minutes and think about what God has planned for you in eternity, because you have been forgiven of your sins through Jesus Christ.

Finally, ask God to show you who He would have you share the good news of Jesus with. Does He bring to mind the names of a few people you know personally? Does He bring to mind some organizations that you could support by volunteering your time, or helping with financial support?

A number of recent surveys have revealed that practically every person who was surveyed says they believe in "god", though many said they did not know who he is, or what religion might be true. They know he's there, but they've never been told who he is.

Many already believe that there is a “god”, and, those of us who know Jesus Christ as our Savior need to tell them who He is.

Jesus Christ is the way, the truth, and the life.

No one comes to the Father except through Jesus.

Is the knowledge of this sobering fact guiding your priorities, and the decisions you make in your life?

If not, today is the day to begin making a course correction!

Pray and seek God’s guidance as you go forward.

***Is it time to rethink priorities
and the way you use your resources?***

Chapter 3

'Go Ye' Means You



Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."

- Jesus Christ

A few years ago I did an interview with Yohana, a young Tanzanian man who is an announcer with the New Life Africa Satellite Network.

In the interview, he brought up the second statement of Jesus which is so vital for us to hear. Yohana shared words that Jesus spoke to His disciples after He had risen: *"Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature."* (Mark 16:15 KJV)

After sharing this scripture, Yohana very matter-of-factly said *"this instruction is for us!"* And it is.

Go ye means you, and me, and all who know Jesus as their Savior!

It may seem like a burden to face this responsibility. It is understandable that we may have apprehensions about sharing our faith with people who may not be interested, or may even be hostile towards it.

But, it is God's desire that we tell others about Jesus! The most fulfilled people I know are those who have focused on knowing God and, ultimately, sharing the good news of Jesus with others.

As their relationship with God has grown, telling others about Him has become more of a natural response. They know that the person they are talking to is in need of hearing about Jesus.

God has called each of us into some part of His harvest field. He has uniquely equipped each of us for the work that He has called us to do. And, it is when we are actively seeking to know the Lord and live out His plan for our lives that we will be the most content.

Jesus spoke of this in His famous Sermon on the Mount.

In Matthew 5:6, Jesus said *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”*

The word *“righteousness”* is not one we use very often outside of the context of our faith. That person who *“hungers and thirsts for righteousness”* is one who seeks to be in a solid relationship with God... someone whose character, attitudes, words, and priorities are in line with what God’s word teaches us.

And, as Jesus said, that person who hungers and thirsts for righteousness is the one who will be *“filled”* ...content, at peace, joyful. This is what all of us long for!

In contrast, consider that person who hungers and thirsts for something other than righteousness.... That person who neglects their relationship with God... whose plans, priorities, and actions are primarily focused on things of this life, not on things of God.

That person, sadly, will not be filled... their life will not be one of contentment, peace, and joy.

I am at the age in which many of my friends have recently retired. Many of them have prepared well for their retirement in terms of financial planning and other areas. But, very few of them have considered how they could be of service to God in this new season of life in which they have financial security, and more time and talent to offer than they’ve ever had before.

In these cases, I have seen them restless, unfulfilled, and uneasy as they consider their remaining years. And, some of them are now looking back at their lives with regret that they did not make their relationship with God, and living for Him, more of a priority earlier in life.

Several years ago I visited an old friend shortly before his 90th birthday. As I approached our visit, I anticipated a fun conversation filled with memories of old times.

But, to my surprise, within a short time this gentleman began expressing regret over the way he had lived his life.

He was a Christian, and I had come to know him through a Christian ministry which we both served as volunteers. He had been active in his church, given some money, and seemed to be a "good Christian."

But, as he approached his 90th birthday, as he looked back on his years on this earth, his assessment of his life was very bleak and was filled with deep regret.

He told me about all the things he knew he should have done, but never did, for the Lord. He was now dwelling on the fact that it was "too late" for him to fulfill the purposes and plan that he believed God had intended for his life.

For 5 hours, and with many tears,

this gentleman spoke to me about his many regrets.

As I got in my car and left later that day, I silently prayed and asked God to show me how to live my life in such a way that I would not face the end of my life with such regrets... regrets that never had to be.

Now is the time for each of us to prayerfully and carefully consider the course our life is on, and the critically important use of our time, talents, and treasure.

As Paul wrote to the Christians at Ephesus, he said to them *"so be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days."*

And, that is our calling today.

Be careful how you live. Don't live like a fool...one who has no moral compass...one who has no God-ordained sense of direction...but be guided by wisdom from above!

Make the most of every opportunity you have!

May developing a real and life-changing relationship with God be your top priority! And, then see what He does in and through your life from there!

With God at the center of your life, you will be able to discern how everything else fits together according to *His* plan...family, work, finances, and all of the other important areas of your life.

As we diligently seek to know God, and to present our lives to Him as a living sacrifice, He will do above and beyond what we might expect Him to do through His power, at work within us!

You won't be disappointed.

Jesus will be true to His word. As you increasingly seek to know and live for God, literally, to "*hunger and thirst for righteousness*" you truly will be "*filled.*"

What steps can you take today to deepen your relationship with the Lord?

Chapter 4

I Will Not Neglect Your Word



*I delight in Your decrees;
I will not neglect Your word.”*

Psalm 119 is about the excellency of God’s word. In verse 16, the author of this beautiful section of scripture made a comment that is important for all followers of Jesus Christ to think about. He said *“I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word.”*

He understood the importance of having the regular input of God’s word into his life, and what a joy it was to know it, and live by it.

It is vital that each of us have that same understanding, and that we *act* on that understanding.

I was raised in a Christian home and attended church regularly as I was growing up. But, it wasn’t until I

was 26 years old that I began studying the word of God on my own, and seeking to make Christ the center of my life.

Prior to that time, I had set goals and priorities for my life that were not God-focused, but were focused entirely on this life.

I was working very hard, and putting in long hours to achieve these goals...goals which were focused totally on this life, and focused totally on me. There was very little room for God in any of it.

During this time I did have some success in achieving the goals I had set, but I found very little satisfaction, and no peace or joy in that

season. By the time I was 20 years old I was taking pills for stress, and frustrated and disappointed by many things.

How could it be that I was able to achieve the goals I had set for my life but not have the satisfaction I had expected in that success?

In response, I sat down one day and made a list of the things that I believed I needed to be happy. I told myself that if I had all four of the things on my list, then I would be definitely be happy.

Within 6 months not only had I achieved every goal that I had set, but had exceeded each one! To my great surprise, I realized that even though I had actually found some enjoyment in reaching each goal, I was still not content, and still did not have the fulfillment, peace or joy that I had expected.

But, actually, this is no surprise. Long ago a prominent and wealthy philosopher named Blaise Pascal observed that *"There is a God-shaped vacuum in the heart of every man, which cannot be filled by any*

created thing, but only by God."

Jesus said essentially the same thing centuries earlier when He asked *"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?"*

(Matthew 16:26 NKJV)

Jesus knew that God created us for His glory, for His purposes, and to live out His plan for our lives. Jesus knew that it's when we are on God's path, that we are *"filled."*

It is in the pursuit of a relationship with God, and living out the plans He has for us, that we find fulfillment, contentment, peace and joy.

For me, when I reached that place of frustration realizing that all I had done to achieve contentment had led nowhere, I decided to see if God might be what was missing. I went to the store and bought a Bible and a packet of highlighters and began a daily time of studying the word of God. I began on page 1 and began reading through the Bible with a desire to know what God had to say. When I saw something of particular importance to

me, I highlighted it so I could find it again later.

This was the beginning of a season of transformation for me which led, ultimately, to the re-direction of my entire life. God became the center and focus, and knowing Him and serving Him became the goal. The contentment, peace, joy, and fulfillment that I had so long desired eventually followed.

And, that scenario has played out many times over the years in other people's lives, and will again in the lives of all who *"hunger and thirst for righteousness."*

It's just as Jesus said *"For anyone who keeps his life for himself shall lose it; and anyone who loses his life for Me shall find it again."*
(Matthew 16:25 TLB)

So, how do you begin? By following the words of the author of Psalm 119 when he said *"I will not neglect Your word."*

Make the time for daily input of the word of God into your life. Make time to meditate on what

you are learning. And, make time to spend with Him in prayer.

None of us seem to have the time to do this...it is something we must choose, and then we make the time to do it.

It is well worth it. There is nothing more important than your relationship with God. There is no substitute for it. There is no way to grow that relationship without spending the time it takes. And, there is no way to find the life that God has planned for us without a growing relationship with Him!

As you spend time with God each day you will begin to look forward to it more and more.

There's so much we could say about the critical importance of knowing God and His word, but there's not space in this short ebooklet to say it all!

But, know this...as you grow in your relationship with the Lord and knowledge of His word, He will renew your mind, transform your heart, and you will be *"filled!"*

The Bible tells us that all scripture comes to us from God and is “... *useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.*” (II Tim. 3:16-17 NIV)

As you draw closer to God and add to your understanding of His word, He will use it to teach, rebuke, correct and train you so that you may be thoroughly equipped for all that He has planned for your life!

Give God the chance to do that for you. Make knowing and serving Him your top priority.

As you draw near to God He will draw near to you. That's His promise to you!

And, it is when we are in a real and living relationship with God that life truly begins!

As you study God's word, meditate on it, and pray to Him for guidance and direction, always remember these two life-changing statements of Jesus:

I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.

And, Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.

Understand that every person you know, and billions around the world who are waiting to hear, are relying on those of us who know Jesus as our Savior and Lord to tell them!

Why not begin right now?

***Draw near to God
and He will draw near to you***

Prepare to Get Started

Main Things to Remember

- Guard your heart and carefully listen to what God says
- Jesus said He is the *only* way to God...everyone *must* have the chance to hear this
- Jesus said each of us who knows Him as Savior has a call to *GO* and tell others
- Don't neglect God's word or prayer. Actively draw near to Him and follow Him forward

About New Life Africa Networks

New Life Africa Networks is a ministry of Your Network of Praise, a Christian radio network in the US.

New Life Africa Networks exists to operate radio stations, 2 satellite networks, the RadioAfrica.fm Podcast Network, websites and more to reach the people of Africa with the gospel.

It is also our hope to help American Christians discover God's plan for their lives!

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