

THE FOLLOWING CHRIST SERIES

Stand Fast in the Faith

A TOOL FOR TRAINING TO DEFEND YOUR FAITH

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Dedicated to the next generation -
Always be ready to take a stand
For the One Who laid down His life for you.

Note to Parents:

It goes without saying, though I'm going to say it anyway. In the light of the assassination of Charlie Kirk, who stood for what he believed according to the Bible and had his life taken because someone did not like the way he spoke, we can never be too careful in this world when we are willing to take a stand for what we believe. Even though we may know it is the truth according to the Bible, there are many in this world who do not believe that, who do not agree with God's Word, and who will want to see those who take a stand come to harm. PLEASE know that the purpose of this course is not to encourage you or your children to be confrontational with potentially volatile people who are not open to hear. The purpose of this course is to educate the student to know what the Bible says, to understand what it means, and to be able to stand on the truths of God's Word. It is a course in Christian apologetics, but also a course in understanding the reasons why it is important for Christians to learn these things, as well as giving examples of common arguments we will likely hear and how we might respond to them. And, as always with materials we publish, it will make the student dig out, digest and tell back what he has learned in his own words, that he might be able to readily defend the faith on his own, not just regurgitate what I share in this course.

As we have seen, the world will not always receive what God's Word has to say. Jesus Christ Himself said in John 15:18 "If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you." But Jesus loved people enough to tell them the truth anyway.

If you are using this study, I'm going to assume you are a Christian - a born again believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. If that is not who you are, you are still welcome to go through this study; just know that this is the perspective from which this course was written. I pray you will consider the truths presented here with an open mind and heart, and, as the Scripture repeats time and time again, "If any man have ears to hear, let him hear."

Know what you believe. Know WHY you believe it, and you will be prepared to defend it in conversation.

Stand strong in the faith.

In His Service,

Dr. Sandi Queen, ND

Note to User:

This course is not divided into any certain number of lessons. As I was writing it, I kept finding myself moving things around, adding to different points here and there, and there didn't seem to be a specific method in which to divide it. That's OK! This is not written as an academic "subject," to be completed in a certain number of weeks. Use it as you see fit. Don't feel bound to these pages only. If you feel led to stop during the study and veer off course and dig in more deeply to any specific portion of Scripture, to delve into your concordance or dictionary and look in more detail about any certain point or topic, please do so. The entire point of this course is to equip YOU to be comfortable and confident in defending your faith. Use the resources available to you to dig deeper. Feel free to add notes, definitions, or rabbit trails you may take, so that you have all of your notes in one volume. Make it your own, for ultimately, this is YOUR tool.

Another thing - this course was written for older students and adults. In it, I will share, for the sake of illustration of points, some difficult experiences I have lived through. My life has not been easy, and some of those experiences are hard to read, though I have greatly "softened" them for the younger crowd. There is nothing "graphic" shared, and I felt it was important to keep those things in the book for the lessons portrayed regarding how the Lord can work through any circumstance to bring beauty from ashes - but I did want to give a heads-up about this to users.

SAY HIS NAME.

In this world, we often see viral statements on social media when someone is victimized or killed, encouraging people to “say their name” to share awareness and keep someone from being forgotten.

And yet, so many professing Christians are hesitant to publicly say the name of Jesus Christ. Why? For fear of being ridiculed? For fear of being labeled as “one of *those* people?” For fear that people will not like you? Fear of being embarrassed?

Do you notice what all of these potential reasons to not say the name of Christ in public have in common? FEAR.

Fear of what people think of you, which is a fear born out of pride.

Proverbs 29:25 tells us that *The fear of man bringeth a snare: but whoso putteth his trust in the LORD shall be safe.*

Why do you think many Christians are afraid to share the name of Christ? I believe it is because they are not prepared for any possible responses from others. They have not “put on the whole armor of God,” as Ephesians 6:11 tells us to do, and they are not prepared for battle. And they KNOW it! And THIS causes them to be full of FEAR.

Imagine if you were a soldier back in Bible days, preparing for battle, and you neglected to put on your armor. Or decided you didn’t need your shield, your helmet, or your sword.

Would you not be AFRAID to go out and face the enemy if you were not fully equipped?

Read Ephesians 6:11 - 20.

Why, according to Ephesians 6:13, should we put on the whole armor of God?

What does Ephesians 6:17 call the “word of God?”

If the Bible calls the word of God the “sword of the Spirit,” does it not make sense that we should take it with us into battle when we go out into the world?

When a soldier is fully armed, he is more confident in battle. When a soldier of Christ is fully armed with knowledge of the Word of God (his sword!), he will be more confident as well, and, as Ephesians 6:19 - 20 says, to open his mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the Gospel, for which he is an ambassador, and to speak boldly, as he ought to speak.

How can you, as a soldier of Christ (for that is what 2 Timothy 2:3 calls His followers), fully arm yourself with the Word of God?

If we really want to make an impact for Christ in this world, which should be the desire of every true Christian, we should not be afraid to be associated with Him and to name His name. If we look at the Scripture, we can see many examples where mighty things happened because others were not afraid, ashamed or embarrassed to share His name.

The Scriptures give us numerous examples of how the name of Jesus Christ can change lives.

Here are just a few:

Acts 3:6 - 7

*Then Peter said, Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: **In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth** rise up and walk. And he took him by the right hand, and lifted him up: and immediately his feet and ankle bones received strength.*

How did the name of Jesus Christ change someone's life in these verses?

Read Acts 16:16 - 19. Whose life was changed in verse 18 by the power of the name of Jesus Christ?

How was it changed?

We can see from these and many other examples in Scripture how the name of Jesus Christ can change lives when it is shared boldly. It is not the speaker who has the power to change lives, but Christ. But He gives us the opportunity to be the ones to share Him with others. We should not let fear stand in our way. Neither should we be ashamed.

Romans 1:16 tells us, *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

According to this verse, why was the apostle Paul not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ?

What can we learn from this?

The author of Psalms 119:46 (presumed to be King David) says, *I will speak of thy testimonies also before kings, and will not be ashamed.*

If David was not ashamed to speak of God's testimonies before kings, should we be ashamed to speak of them before our friends, family members and neighbors?

The apostle Paul, in his letters to Timothy, admonishes his fellow missionary to not be ashamed in these verses:

2 Timothy 1:8

Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;

2 Timothy 2:15

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

The apostle Peter writes in 1 Peter 4:16, *Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, **let him not be ashamed**; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*

In 1 John 2:28, the apostle John writes, *And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and **not be ashamed** before him at his coming.*

Looking at these verses, what does 2 Timothy 1:8 tell us we should be instead of being ashamed of the testimony of the Lord?

Looking at 2 Timothy 2:15, what should we do so that we need not be ashamed?

According to 1 Peter 4:16, what should a Christian do instead of being ashamed?

1 John 2:28 tells us to do what so that we may have confidence and not be ashamed before the Lord at His coming?

When we stand up for Christ and for what the Bible says, some may come to know the Lord because we were bold enough to share the Truth with them. But not everyone will react that way. In fact, we are told in 1 John 3:13, *Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.*

In John 1:11, we are told about Jesus Christ, *He came unto his own, and his own received him not.*

We know from God's Word that not everyone was happy to hear the words of Christ, even when He walked among them and performed miracles. In fact, they chose to kill Him in the most painful way possible - through crucifixion. Knowing this, we should not be surprised that not everyone will happily receive us when we share the truth with them either. But that is not an excuse for us to give up and cower in fear.

Throughout this course, you will find many ways to defend the Bible to those who don't believe in it. Some of those will be based on reason and some on science, but ultimately, it comes down to whether or not someone is willing to have faith - to BELIEVE.

2 Corinthians 5:7 tells us that, as believers, we are to walk by FAITH rather than by sight.

Copy this verse below:

There will be those who refuse to believe by faith. Hebrews 4:2 gives us an indication of how the Gospel will benefit those who do not have faith:

For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it.

When the Gospel was preached to those who did not have faith, it did not profit them.

There are many people who have heard the Gospel preached and have not believed the first time they heard it. Maybe you know some people like that. Let me encourage you by sharing a brief version of my own testimony.

I did not grow up in a Christian home. When I was twenty three years old, circumstances led me to a very low point in my life. At that very time, two young men I knew from the place where I worked stopped by to visit me one evening, and proceeded to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with me. I know now that what they shared with me was the one true path to salvation through Christ, but at the time, that was the first time I had ever heard such a thing, and I did not have the faith to believe it.

BUT, the seeds they planted continued to grow in my heart, and to make me think about the things they had shared. Upon visiting a thrift store, I bought a second hand Bible - the very first one I had ever owned - and started reading it at the beginning, because I had no idea where to start. Not long afterwards, I was surfing through the television channels late one night and came upon a preacher sharing the Gospel. Those seeds that had been planted by those two young men who had first shared with me had been watered by God's Word as I had begun to read it, and finally, when I heard the Gospel preached the second time, I chose to believe it by faith.