

**ObeYing Christ's Command to  
"Go Make Disciples...Regardless  
of Zip Code"**

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**Because God cares about  
"desperate men" (like you and  
me)**

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**Loving Yourself – Part One**

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**Showing the Love of God and  
Giving Hope to Homeless Women  
and Men**

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# Three Encouraging Ways to Remember the H-O-P-E We Have in Christ Alone

*“but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to **give an account for the hope that is in you**, yet with gentleness and reverence” (1 Peter 2: 15)*

Acronyms help us remember what a word means or just a funny play on the letters in a word. For example, *LOL – laugh out loud or AWOL – absent without leave*. And most everyone has heard of the KISS principle – *Keep It Simple Stupid*.

One human need that all share is the need for hope. Once hope is gone, only bad things happen. There is not a more lonely or desperate feeling than hopelessness. Hope may be defined as ***to long for, expect, or trust that something we want to happen will.***

What are you hoping for? Some hope for fortune and fame. They want to win the lottery or be on TV or in the movies. Others hope for a good job, so they can make money and feel fulfilled. Still others hope for health.

Christians always have hope. Perhaps I should say that Christians ***should*** always have hope. The word ‘hope’ is used more than 140 times in the Bible. Whether or not we have anything else this side of Heaven, we have hope. For us, it is eternal hope. But for some, that does not seem like enough. We want hope now!

Every time I teach, one of my goals is to always bring hope to

the hearer. When you teach from the Bible as I do, finding messages of hope is not difficult. What can be difficult is teaching the hard truths of God's Word which can be frightening to those who are lost and without hope. But *hopeful* if you are honestly and humbly looking for real HOPE. When we do that—read and look hard enough, we will always find His message of Hope – Jesus.

Tonight I am bringing you a message of HOPE in acronym fashion—actually three messages of HOPE.

▪ **He Offers Pardon Everyday –**

(Jesus speaking to the Pharisees) *“But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to (pardon) sins”—then He said to the paralytic, “Get up, pick up your bed and go home.” And he got up and went home. But when the crowds saw this, they were awestruck, and glorified God Matthew 9: 6*

*“Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against (pardoning our sins) them.” 2 Corinthians 5: 18-19*

Have you sought and received the pardon from your sins only Jesus can give? If not, why not? Jesus is the only way to salvation (John 14:6) for the lost. And if you are in Christ, seeking His pardon restores our broken relationship when we fall back into sin.

▪ **He Offers Peace Everyday**

(Jesus) *“Peace I leave with you; My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Do not let your heart be troubled, nor let it be afraid.” John 14:27*

*“(God) will keep in perfect peace all who trust in Him, all*

*whose thoughts are fixed on Him!"* Isaiah 26: 3

You may have seen the bumper sticker:

***Know Jesus...Know Peace    No Jesus...No peace.***

Finally as Christians we know the third fruit of the Spirit Paul teaches us is PEACE. This is the kind of peace he later told us is the kind that "passes all understanding".

▪ **He Offers Power    Everyday**

*"He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power."* v 29 from Isaiah 40: 27 – 31

In the New Testament, Jesus promised Power to His disciples (and that includes us).

*"but you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."* Acts 1: 8

As Christians, our power to live in this world – full of all its temptations and troubles – comes from one Source – the Holy Spirit. Why do we keep trying to do things in our own power when we have His? For some of us, it is a control issue. We surrender part of our lives to Jesus but hold onto other areas.

We get the most power from God when give up control. Our surrender brings His power. The Apostle Paul said, *"when I am weak, then I am strong."* 2 Corinthians 12:10

My dear brothers, take heart. No matter how difficult your situation—no matter how desperate your need, there is One who knows and understands where you are right now as I am teaching here tonight. He alone can bring hope to what you may believe is hopeless. My strong admonition to you tonight is to bow before Him and ask Him to restore your hope. Jesus never ever

turns away a man with a humble, repentant heart.

He is our Hope today and forever. Amen.

*Walter*

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## A Father's Day to Remember

For a number of years as my father-in-law's health declined and his Homegoing drew closer, I felt compelled to have our families spend 'my' Father's Day honoring him by traveling to his nursing home in the Memphis area to love on him because we never know when it's going to be the last time. As Spurgeon said so well. "Our duty is our delight.."

My last act as the next senior dad in our families was to gather all of us around Dadaw, as he is known to his grands, lay hands on him, and pray. The most important part of my prayer was answered this morning. Dadaw was ushered gently Home – his spirit safely in the presence the Savior he loved so much.

We are so blessed our entire family was able to make the trip to be with him one more time this side of Heaven. My daughter was very excited to take our new grandson to meet his great grandfather. He seemed alert enough to know we were there. His quips slowed over the years, but he still had the occasional one that defined his wry sense of humor.

My dear brothers, do not take such days and times for granted. We have no promise of a next day or even our next breath. But if you are in Christ, you have the most important promise of all – eternal life spent in Heaven with Jesus and all the saints who have gone before and those who will follow

us Home. It was a...

*Happy Father's Day indeed,*

*Walter*

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## Fathers and Sons

Another Father's Day is upon us, and, honestly, I am not sure what else can be said on the subject. Many books have been written and sermons preached. Having grown up in the church, I have literally heard them all my life. With multiple teaching times just ahead, I had no intention of adding more to that. My journal is full of other thoughts and verses written down believing one day they will encourage and equip men in our walks with the Lord. But today my focus was turned to this timely subject—fathers and sons.

I have been a son since the day I was born and a father more than thirty years. I recently became a “grand”-father. Being a father is a great honor and privilege, yet our high office is not without trials and tribulations. The responsibilities can be intimidating—sometimes overwhelming. Most of us men do not want to let cracks in the armor of our manhood become exposed. But at some point in our lives as fathers, they are.

The Bible contains many examples of fathers and sons. My mind was taken to three that give us much to read, chew on, and digest as we consider them in the context of our own

experiences as fathers and sons.

### **Abraham and Isaac. The faith of a father—the love and trust of a son.**

The story of Abraham spans Genesis 12 – 25. Much of that covers the twenty-five years from God's promise he would have an heir and descendants "as numerous as the stars". Abram was 75 when he received the promise—100 when he received his son, Isaac.

While his age is a great conversation among biblical apologists, Isaac was young man when God gave his father the most incredible order in biblical history. God commanded Abraham to "take his son, his only son whom you love (and had waited on for 25 years) and sacrifice him" (Genesis 22:2) – a burnt offering at that!

In the next verse we read the most amazing act of obedience in all of Scripture apart from Jesus Himself. Abraham packed up what he needed, got Isaac, and headed for Mount Moriah to sacrifice his son. The most incredible thing that is easy to miss (because it is not there) is this—no argument from Abraham. As fathers, we would have been screaming, crying, and begging God to relent on such a ridiculous command.

It is probably safe to say no father ever loved his son more than Abraham loved Isaac. Yet in complete and swift obedience, he prepared to kill him. But do not forget about Isaac. We know he questioned his father about where the sacrifice was. Abraham simply told him God would provide (Jehovah Jireh). The love and trust of Isaac for his father is obvious in his obedience. He was old enough to have resisted being placed on a pile of wood to be the sacrifice. Abraham was old. Isaac probably could have taken away the knife. But he did not.

We know how the story turned out. God stayed the hand of

Abraham, sparing the life of Isaac and immeasurable grief for his father. What did we learn?

- *As fathers, we must also be men of faith, believing God, taking Him at His word, communicating (ongoing process) that to our sons in words and actions.*

## **David and Solomon. A Portrait of Contradiction and Consistency**

That is an odd way to position this part of our lesson. But the Bible clearly teaches that David was indeed both. He was an amazing young man who began writing worship songs watching sheep and continued throughout his life. He believed God completely and stepped in to kill a giant who defied Him as the 'real' Israeli soldiers cowered in fear. He loved His Lord God with all his heart. He is the only man in the Bible that God Himself called, "*a man after My own Heart*". (1 Samuel 13:14; Acts 13:22)

But 0 did David have issues!!! Lust surrendered to that led to adultery and murder. That followed by the death of his child. Too many wives and too many dysfunctional sons. One who raped his sister. Another killed him for that. Later he led a rebellion against his father.

Much of what befell David were consequences of his sin. Yet we know from the most powerful Psalm of all (Psalm 51), David was broken and repentant before the Lord in all of this. When confronted by the prophet of God attending him, he was accountable for his sins.

And who grew up in all of this? Solomon. Solomon was not in line to be David's heir, but God selected him, and David honored that despite major ramifications from the "rightful heir" son.

David wanted most of all to build God a house – temple – worthy of His magnificence and made all the plans and



preparations to do so. But God halted that; instead giving that honor to Solomon. Once again, as with Abraham, we do not read that David complained. Instead he wrote a psalm of praise to God.

When David was about to go Home to be with His Lord, he called Solomon to him and spoke these words.

*“So be strong, act like a man, and observe what the Lord your God requires: Walk in obedience to Him, and keep His decrees and commands, His laws and regulations, as written in the Law of Moses. Do this so that you may prosper in all you do and wherever you go...”* 1 Kings 2: 2-3

What do we learn from such a relationship filled with contradiction on one hand and consistency on the other?

- As fathers, our lives mirror David's more than we readily admit—as least in public. **We all fail miserably and often.** The question is what do you do when confronted with your sin? Get defensive and deny it? Or get humble and confess it, accepting responsibilities for your sins against your Creator and our Lord Jesus Christ?
- Despite his failures as a father, David's lasting impression on Solomon was he chose the latter. And for that he is hailed by His Father God as “a man after My own heart”. **As fathers, let us strive to be known, like David, as “forgiven failures”** who model the same humble and contrite hearts to our sons. That is a legacy worth leaving!

## **The Father and the Son**

God the Father and Jesus the Son. This might seem the more challenging and unusual of the three parts of this lesson. It turned out to be the easiest to write, but perhaps the

most difficult for us fathers to apply. In the three examples that follow, it is not His Son that benefits. It is you and me! Consider,

– **Sacrificial love.** Most of the time when we think of this concept, the sacrificial love of Christ, the Son, for us comes to mind. That is supported by many scriptures. But in the best-known verse in the Bible, John 3: 16, Jesus speaks of the sacrificial love of God. He gave His Son to die as a sacrifice.

– **Tough love.** This concept was introduced to me through a book on parenting by James Dobson, PhD. It has since been applied to other areas of life including marriage. Reduced to a sentence,

*Tough love means holding firm to (biblical) truths and convictions in relationships even when the impact on others may be painful and not seem “loving” in the cultural sense.*

It was “tough love” of God that stayed His hand from bringing His Son down from that cross because it should have been you and me there. What He should have done was brought on mankind the judgement due after thousands of years of second chances and failed covenant relationships (on man’s part).

But He did not. Instead He listened as His Son cried out, “My God, My God why have you forsaken Me?” (Matthew 27: 46) That, my dear brothers, is the toughest love ever applied which brings us to the third love that is the result of the first two.

– **Saving love.** Every Christian knows what this means. It is the saving love of God that the Apostle Paul talked about in Romans 5: 8.

*“...God demonstrates His own love for us in that while we*

*were still sinners, Christ died for us.”*

It is the saving love of Jesus that Paul again described in Galatians 2: 20

*“...but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in **the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.**”*

As fathers, lovers of our children (and their mothers), let us strongly take to heart these examples.

- *Sacrificial Love – when it costs me something or I do not benefit from its expression.*
- *Tough Love – when it hurts me and the one on the other end of this biblical love.*
- *Saving love – we cannot offer, but one of the greatest demonstrations of our love for others is when we point them to the only One Who can save them – Christ our Risen Savior.*

*Yours for Christ’s sake,*

*Walter*

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## **Celebrating Abortion in America (again) – Truth AND Consequences**

Like many, I was moved to disgust and great sadness when I watched as elected government officials celebrated passing another law adding one more state to the list that can end the

lives of babies up to their birthday. This is a message that (1) points all to biblical truth about life in our Creator's words, His ultimate intolerance of such sin, (2) calls out the Christian church for its passivity, and (3) offers healing and hope to those considering abortion or suffering from its consequences.

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**Be a “Receiver” this year –  
leaving nothing on the table  
God has for you in 2019**

<https://desperatemen.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Desperate-Men-Ministry-Friday-Jan.-4-Receiving-60-sec-final-mix.mp3>

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**Overcoming “Bouts of Doubt”**

<https://desperatemen.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/12/Desperate-Men-Ministry-Wednesday-Jan.-2-Believing-God-60-sec-final-m....mp3>