



MORE THAN

*Disciples*

It is a great privilege to be a disciple of Christ. *Disciple* is an expression that the Bible uses many times in the four gospels and Acts of the Apostles.

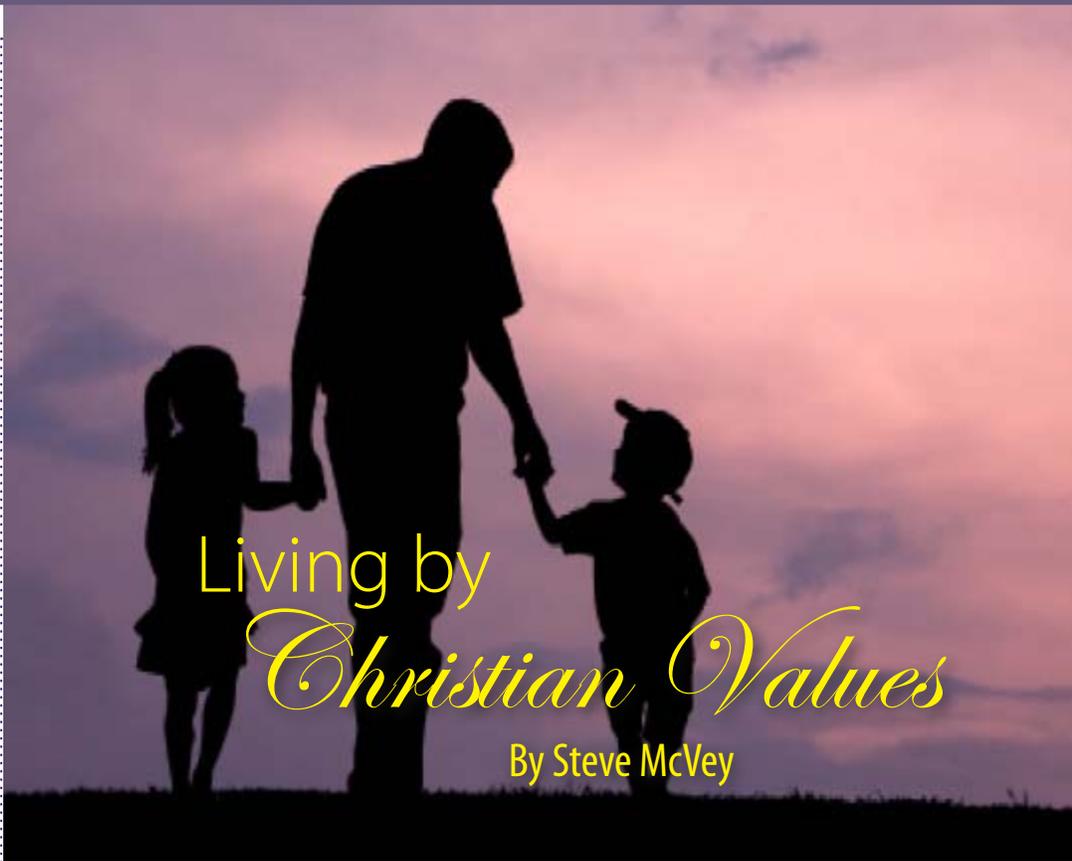
“Imitate me, as I imitate Christ,” Paul said. But as we continue to read *the letters of Paul* another and greater dimension starts to unfold – a dimension where we are MORE than disciples. The Master has now come to live inside of us! “Christ in us, the hope of glory.” (Col 1:27) “It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me.” (Gal 2:20) The awareness of this truth radically changes our lives.

Take time to study the article of Steve McVey on Christ *being* our life. We also present the second part of the series by Mike Walker.

I would also like to use this opportunity to welcome all new readers of Global Grace News. If you register your e-mail address we will send you free teaching articles every second month. On the web site ([www.GlobalGraceNews.org](http://www.GlobalGraceNews.org)) you also find all the articles for the last four years. We pray you will be greatly encouraged as you go through those articles, focusing on topics like The Gospel of Grace, Righteousness, Sanctification, New Covenant Prayer, and the huge differences between the Old and the New Covenant.



Mary Felde  
Editor



Living by  
*Christian Values*

By Steve McVey

On the surface it would seem that defending Christian values is a noble cause. But let’s take a closer look at what the Bible teaches.

There is a great deal of discussion and debate today about “Christian values.” The term is used to describe the spiritual/moral principles around which believers build their lives. On the surface it would seem that defending Christian values is a noble cause. Yet the Bible never teaches that our lives should be built around a particular value system.

Our life IS Christ!

Paul never said, “For to me to live is to *live like Christ*.” However, many Christians would suggest that to imitate the life of Christ is a worthy goal. Paul *did* say, “For me to live *is* Christ.” His lifestyle was not an imitation of the life of Jesus. Christianity is not an imitation of Christ’s life. It is an expression of His life. When a person focuses on imitating Christ, he will be obsessed

**“When a person focuses on imitating Christ, he will be obsessed with doing right and avoiding wrong.”**

with doing right and avoiding wrong. Obviously, a Christian should do right and avoid wrong but many in the modern church may be putting the cart before the horse. The Bible never suggests that we are to behave a certain way in order to become righteous. Any effort to achieve righteousness by our behavior will only lead to *self-righteousness*.

**“Don’t get caught up in living by values. Live by His life...”**

When a person receives Christ, he is given the very nature of Jesus. Peter said that we have become “partakers of the divine nature” (2 Peter 1:3). A Christian does not gradually become righteous - he has been given the gift of righteousness in the person of Christ! 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “that God made Him who

knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” You may behave more righteously than you do right now, but you will never be made more righteous than you are today. Every Christian has the nature of Christ. How can we get holier than that? When our focus is only on behavior, we are living a legalistic, performance-based kind of “Christian” life. God’s prescription is that our focus should be on Jesus. Abiding in Him will allow us to live in victory.

Our lifestyle is not built on values - Christian or otherwise. Our life is Christ! As we abide in Him, His righteousness is expressed through our lifestyle. Apart from him, even our “good” deeds are nothing more than empty religion. Jesus said, “Apart from me you can do nothing.” We can preach, pray, teach, witness, give, and do a hundred other things, but they all add up to zero in God’s eyes if we

aren’t abiding in Christ. Don’t get caught up in living by values. Live by His life. An imitation of Christ is empty religion. An expression of Christ is real Christianity. An imitation is never as good as the real thing. Don’t settle for a cheap substitute. Abide in Him!



**Dr. Steve McVey**

Florida, US President of  
Grace Walk Ministries  
[www.gracewalk.org](http://www.gracewalk.org)

## STUDY CORNER

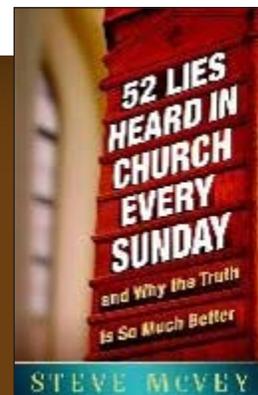
Could many churchgoing Christians be getting a diluted Christianity—one that diminishes the loving, giving, personal God who provides the believer everything in life?

Author Steve McVey passionately but unwittingly taught from the pulpit the very lies he now exposes. Fortrightly but humbly, he shows how pastors and churches can end up distorting scriptural truths because of their preconceptions.

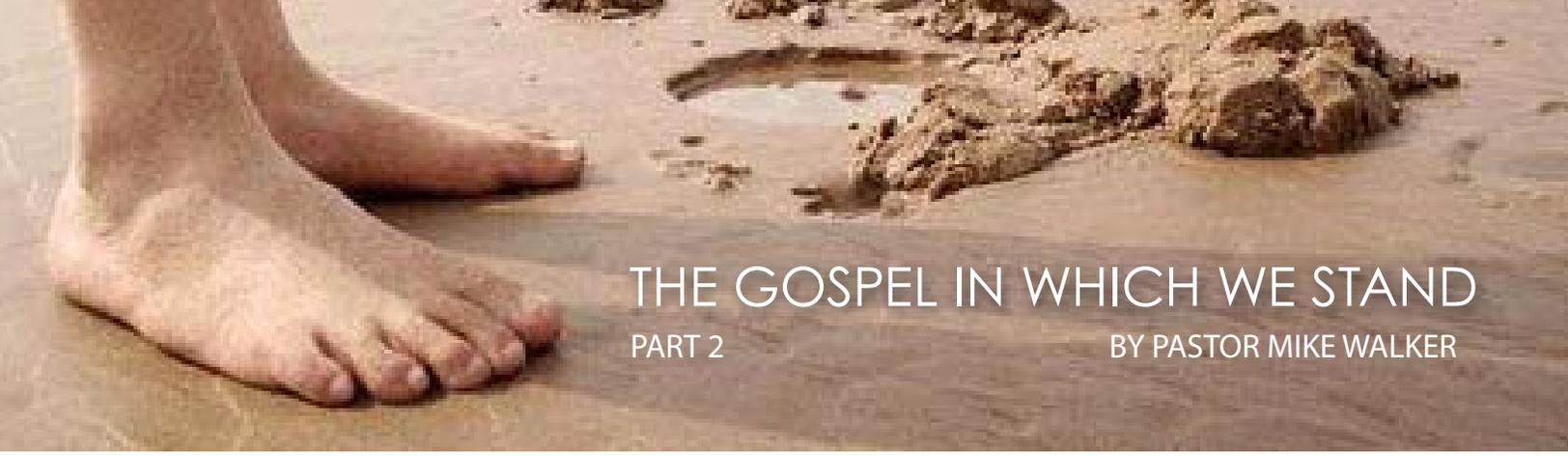
Opening up the Scriptures freshly, Steve examines typical problems such as:

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- **Leaving out half of the truth:** “Becoming a Christian means having your sins forgiven.” (We also are made alive!)
- **Using “shorthand” that promotes an unbiblical view:** “Our sins are under the blood of Jesus.” (Far better, they’ve been taken away!)
- **Confusing our role with God’s:** “Salvation is giving your life to Christ.” (More important, He gives His life to us!)



Readers will see that God’s undiluted truth is always best...and brings a fulfilling, close relationship with Him.



# THE GOSPEL IN WHICH WE STAND

PART 2

BY PASTOR MIKE WALKER

In this second part of the article we look at the difference between the old and the new covenant. Let's be sure that we preach the New Covenant.

**Rom 1:16** 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.

The gospel is the good news that we have received by faith. It cannot be earned and none of us deserve it by our own merits. This is the good news of Jesus Christ - the good news of what He has accomplished. It is the foundation of our abundant living as believers. This abundant life is not found in self-effort religion - it is found in Jesus!

We have discovered in the Bible that whenever a person tells the story of what Christ has done in his life or what Christ has done on the cross, this announcement is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes.

News is something that has already happened. We learned last time that whenever we go and tell the story, the Lord works with us, and confirms the word with signs following! That is why the gospel is the power of God.

## The Power of God

The power of God is in the announcement of the gospel. It is not found in someone declaring the judgment and the wrath of God! It is not found in pointing out all the failures of someone's life. The power of God is not found in doing good works or in religion. The power of God is found when we tell the good news of what Jesus has done!

**Matt 4:16** The people which sat in darkness saw great light; and to them which sat in the region and shadow of death light is sprung up. **17** From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

**"It is because we know that we are blessed that we do things."**

## Into the New Covenant

Jesus came into the picture and this great light began to shine - the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus was bringing a New Covenant message to an Old Covenant people. He was telling them that this thing called the New Covenant is so close, it is at hand! Then came the cross and it was at the cross that we passed from the Old Covenant into the New Covenant!

What we see in the life of Jesus is the walk out of the Old Covenant into the New Covenant. In the Old, we did things to obtain: If I am good enough then Jesus will help me; if I do all the right things then I will be accepted. Jesus, through the cross, brought to us an incredible revelation - He paid the price so that we could freely receive all things!

**Eph 1:3** Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: KJV No longer do we do things to obtain favor - we have favor. We don't do things to be blessed - we are blessed. It is because we know that we are blessed that we do things. We forgive others because we know that Christ has already forgiven us. We don't need to earn forgiveness because He paid the price so we could be forgiven - He paid the penalty! This is good news!

**John 16:12** I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now.

Here we see Jesus nearing the end of His journey and He tells His closest followers, "I have a lot more to tell you; there is so much more for you to understand but you cannot bear them now." It would have been impossible for them to understand the gospel because Jesus had not yet gone to the cross!

Col 1:25 Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God. Paul has a ministry for us. It was given to him for us to fulfill the word of God. In John 16:12 the word was not yet fulfilled so the Lord brings in Paul to fulfill the word of the New Covenant. To Peter, James and John the mystery was hidden. Now the Apostle Paul reveals the mystery of the New Covenant: **26 Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: 27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:** KJV

**In our religion we say, "We need a breakthrough; we need more anointing; we need more wisdom; we need more...."**

The disciples did not know this before the cross because they were all running after Jesus. "Oh, if I could touch the hem of His garment; Praise God, Jesus is in the boat. Don't you care that we perish. Wake him up." They lowered the man down through the roof that he might be healed by Jesus. This was all in an effort to reach Him, to be noticed by Jesus and to be accepted by Jesus. "If I am good enough; if I press hard enough, etc." All of that is Old Covenant.

## We are Raised Into New Life

In the New Covenant, we have this treasure in earthen vessels – where we are, He is! Now we have understanding that they did not have in John 16:12. The Old Covenant veil has been removed!

Elisha wanted the double portion, but now we have Jesus! David said, "I am like a deer panting after water" - Jesus said you will never thirst again! In fact, out of our bellies flow rivers of living water!

In our religion we say, "We need a breakthrough; we need more anointing; we need more wisdom; we need more...." But the Apostle Paul had tapped into the New Covenant and had this ministry for us to reveal the hidden mystery – Christ in you, the hope of glory!

**Eph 1:17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,** KJV

He is not saying we don't have the victory or the anointing, but we don't understand what we have. His prayer was that we could understand the incredible victory we have in Christ! Jesus told them, "There are many more things to tell you but you can't bear them now." The work is finished, but the Word is not yet finished. He sees Saul of Tarsus headed for Damascus outside of Jerusalem. (Not Israel, but Damascus of Arabia. The gospel is now headed for the world and for several years Jesus, through the Holy Ghost teaches the gospel to

Paul, who then teaches the other disciples.)

Jesus teaches him what really happened at the cross. When we read Matthew, Mark, Luke and John we see the history of what happened; not the spiritual of what happened. He teaches Paul that when He died, we died. When He rose, we rose. When He was seated, we also were seated.

All this happened at the cross, resurrection, and ascension of Jesus. He put away the sins of the world and took the wrath and anger of God for us. When He was raised into new life, we also are raised into new life. Then Jesus ascended and we learn that He took His blood into the heavens to the Holy of Holies and applied that blood to the mercy seat. The blood of Jesus speaks better things than that of Abel - we are forgiven, we are righteous because He is righteous, and we are seated because He is seated!

The power of the gospel is in its announcement! Speak the Good News of what Jesus has done and witness the power of God in your life!



**Mike Walker**

Pastor of Faith Ministries,  
Idaho, US  
Member of GGN Board  
of Directors



# Learning to receive

## *God's Love*

By Steve McVey

### **We all want to experience the love of God. But how can we learn to receive more of His affection for us?**

I practice the following spiritual exercise every day and have found it to be a tremendous way to consciously experience the love of God. (This exercise is taken directly from my book, *The Godward Gaze*.) I hope it will encourage you in your own daily communion with your loving Father.

### **Sit quietly and focus your attention on Jesus Christ**

Resist the impulse to immediately begin using words for prayer. Set your mind on the love that your heavenly Father has for you. Reject analytical thoughts about what this time is supposed to accomplish.

**Just turn your heart toward Him in quiet submission and wait.**

It isn't up to you to accomplish anything. Just turn your heart toward Him in quiet submission and wait.

If you seem to experience nothing, don't become discouraged. If your thoughts tend to wander, remember that this is completely normal for people who have seldom known a quiet moment within themselves throughout their lifetime. Gently bring your focus back to center, upon Jesus Christ.

### **Listen to the gentle prompting of the Holy Spirit**

While it is true that you have no agenda for your time of contemplative prayer other than to set your attention upon Him, God's Spirit may gently guide your thoughts into various areas of your life where He wants to act. He may cause you to express prayer for yourself or others using words. However, there may be times when it isn't necessary to frame your request in words.

Sometimes you may find yourself simply recognizing a need and mentally lifting that need upward and laying it at the feet of Jesus, without a word being expressed mentally or vocally. If you don't know what to say, then say nothing. Simply present your requests to Him by imagining that you are

laying them out before Him.

### **Use sanctified imagination to enjoy the affection of the divine lover**

The emphasis of the New Age Movement on visualization has caused many Christians to be afraid of using their imaginations at all in their relationship to God. However, the imagination of the believer is a powerful tool for experiencing intimacy with Him.

**They imagine Him lovingly gazing into their eyes.**

It is tragic that many believers view the imagination as primarily the domain in which the enemy works. If the enemy of our souls will readily use our imagination, it certainly isn't inappropriate for us to yield to the Holy Spirit to use it for God's glory. Don't allow the abuse of some to cause you to dismiss the value of imagination.

Some have found it helpful to imagine themselves being held in the arms of their heavenly Father, picturing Him embracing them with a big hug. Others imagine

themselves sitting on His lap like a child. They imagine Him lovingly gazing into their eyes. There are many other imaginary scenarios that believers have found helpful. Ask the Holy Spirit to teach you how to combine your imagination with biblical faith to experience a deeper sense of intimacy with God.

Try this simple exercise as an example of using your imagination. As you read these next few paragraphs, slow down your thought process. Don't hurry through these lines as if you're on a mission that must be hurriedly accomplished. Use your imagination and see by faith what is described in the paragraphs that follow.

Imagine Jesus walking into the room where you are right now. He walks across the room and stands directly in front of you. He reaches out and puts His arms around you, and pulls you close to Himself to hug you.

Relax. Still your busy mind. Just rest in His embrace. He gently presses His face against your own and quietly whispers in your ear, "I love you so much. Do you know how proud I am of you? I love you more than you can possibly know. Sh-h-h. Be still and know that I love you." Listen to Him. Wait until you sense an inner calmness. Ask

Him to speak a personal word, just to you. Listen. Do you hear His voice? Linger here, in this still, quiet place, and allow Him to express His love. Wait – until you know it is appropriate to resume normal activity. Revel in His love. Don't rush this exercise.

Are you uncomfortable with such an exercise as the one described in the preceding paragraphs? Is there anything unbiblical about what I have described? Is there anything untrue about the above scenario? Jesus does love you just as I have described. He does embrace you in His arms and longs to express His love to you in meaningful ways. I haven't asked you to pretend anything, but rather by faith to see in your mind's eye something that is real.

Don't be uncomfortable with such intimacy. Sometimes men protest that such an exercise feels unnatural to them. They are correct. It is unnatural. It is supernatural. Relax. This isn't an issue about gender. It is a matter of learning to relax in your loving Father's embrace the way you always longed for with your earthly father when you were a young boy. Despite the messages of contemporary culture, men don't outgrow the need for affection. If it is uncomfortable, practice the awareness of His affectionate

presence until it becomes comfortable.

If you don't see yourself as an affectionate person by default, ask the Holy Spirit to renew your mind to the fact that your heavenly Father is an affectionate Person. He wants

**Linger here, in this still, quiet place, and allow Him to express His love.**

to pour out His affection on you. Once you have learned to receive it from Him, you will be encouraged to discover how much easier it is for you to give it to others, who have needed your affection for so long.



**Dr. Steve McVey**

Florida, US President of  
Grace Walk Ministries  
[www.gracewalk.org](http://www.gracewalk.org)

