

# Jesus Can Give You a New Life

John 14:6

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## INTRODUCTION:

A. **ILLUSTRATION:** He was 9 years old and in a Sunday school class of 8-year olds. Eight-year olds can be cruel you know. The third graders did not welcome Philip to their group. Not just because he was older . . . but because he was different. Philip suffered from Down’s syndrome and its obvious manifestations: facial characteristics, slow responses, symptoms of retardation.

One Sunday after Easter, the Sunday school teacher gathered some of those plastic eggs that pull apart in the middle—similar to the kind in which some women’s pantyhose are packaged. The Sunday school teacher gave one of these plastic eggs to each child. On that beautiful spring day each child was to go outdoors and discover for himself some symbol of “new life” and place that symbolic seed or leaf or whatever inside the egg. They would then open their eggs one by one, and each youngster would explain how his find was a symbol of “new life.” So . . .the youngsters gathered around on the appointed day and put their eggs on a table where the teacher began to open them.

- One child found a flower. All the children “oohed” and “aahed” at the lovely symbol of new life.
- In another was a butterfly. “Beautiful,” the girls said.
- Another egg was opened to reveal a rock. Some of the children laughed. “That’s crazy,” one said. “How’s a rock supposed to be like a “new life?” Immediately a little boy spoke up and said, “That’s mine.” I knew everybody would get flowers and leaves and butterflies and all that stuff, so I got a rock to be different.” Everyone laughed.
- The teacher opened the last one, and there was nothing inside. “That’s not fair,” someone said. “That’s stupid,” said another. The teacher felt a tug on his shirt. It was Philip. Looking up he said, “It’s mine. I did do it. It’s empty. I have a new life because Jesus’ tomb was empty.” The class fell silent. From that day on Philip became part of the group. They welcomed him. Whatever had made him different was never mentioned again.

Philip’s family had known he would not live a long life; just too many things wrong with his tiny body. That summer, overcome with infection, Philip died.

On the day of his funeral, nine 8-year-old boys and girls confronted the reality of death and marched up to the front—not with flowers. Nine children with their Sunday school teacher placed on the casket of their friend their gift of love—an empty egg.

- B. Friends, that little boy knew that since the tomb was empty—that Jesus was raised from the dead—he had a new life. He told his classmates that he had a new life because the tomb was empty.
- C. This very day, yea this very hour, you can have a new life . . . a new beginning through Jesus our Lord. And because you can, I want to offer some reasons why we should give our lives to Jesus and follow His teachings.

**FIRST: WE SHOULD GIVE OUR LIVES TO JESUS AND FOLLOW HIS TEACHINGS BECAUSE HE PROMISES US ETERNAL LIFE IN HEAVEN.**

- A. In John 6 we read that many of Jesus’ disciples deserted Him because they could not accept his teachings. So Jesus asked the twelve remaining disciples if they were going to leave. [John 6:66-69](#) - “From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more. Then Jesus said to the twelve, Do you also want to go away?” But Simon Peter answered Him, Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Also we have come to believe and know that You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
- B. People look to the wrong people for eternal life
- a. Buddha cannot give eternal life.
  - b. Muhammad cannot give you eternal life.
  - c. The Pope cannot give you eternal life.
  - d. Martin Luther cannot give you eternal life.
  - e. David Koresh (the Davidians) cannot give you eternal life.
  - f. Your parents cannot give you eternal life.
  - g. Jesus Christ is the only One who can give you eternal life.
- C. Friends:
- a. We cannot get to Heaven following our own philosophies.
  - b. We cannot get to Heaven following our own teachings and ideas.
  - c. We cannot get to Heaven by just living a moral and clean life.
  - d. We cannot get to Heaven simply by having a good conscience.
  - e. We cannot get to Heaven by merely rendering good works.
  - f. We cannot buy our way into Heaven.
  - g. We cannot pray our way into Heaven.
  - h. The only avenue to Heaven is through Jesus Christ!
- D. **ILLUSTRATION:** Minutes after Debbie Armstrong and Cristin Cooper placed first and second in the women’s giant sla-lom at Sarajevo in the 1984 Winter Olympics, a tall stranger stood by them in the press room, congratulating them. He even got Armstrong’s autograph.

The problem was, he had no business being there. He wasn't a press agent. He wasn't a reporter. He wasn't an official. He wasn't anyone else important. He was simply a gatecrasher who had slipped past security guards to mingle among the famous. Two day later, he breached even tighter security to enter the press center.

It's a hobby with him. He has successfully crashed World Series press conferences at least 17 Super Bowls. He fakes credential, outwits rigid security, bluffs his way where he isn't welcome, and makes himself so conform that everyone thinks he belongs.

1. Friends, there is one place that he will never enter if he doesn't belong—that place is Heaven.
2. No one slips in there unnoticed . . . unwelcomed . . . or uncalled.
3. Only those who have given their lives to Jesus and followed His teachings will be able to enter Heaven.
4. **John 14:6** - “Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.”
5. If you desire eternal life in Heaven, then the only way to get there is through Jesus Christ.

## **SECOND: WE SHOULD GIVE OUR LIVES TO JESUS AND FOLLOW HIS TEACHINGS BECAUSE HE PROVIDED US WITH AN ABUNDANT LIFE HERE . . . AND NOW.**

- A. **John 10:10** - “. . . I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”
1. Jesus not only promises us life after death, but He offers us an abundant, richer, and fuller life right now.
  2. Friends, there is joy in being a Christian.
  3. With Jesus you can:
    - a. Change your life dramatically.
    - b. Embrace that which is truly good and best in this life.
    - c. Feel clean and forgiven.
    - d. Discover a life worth living.
    - e. Possess a happiness you have never known.
    - f. Have a sense of purpose for being alive today.
    - g. Lead others to know the joys of your Lord.
- B. If you are trying to live life without joy . . . without meaning . . . and without purpose, please know today that Jesus can change that. He can and will give you life, and that more abundant than you have ever imagined.

## **THIRD: WE SHOULD GIVE OUR LIVES TO JESUS AND FOLLOW HIS TEACHING BECAUSE HE PROVIDES US WITH PEACE.**

- A. The Greek word for “peace” (eirene) means an inner contentment, serenity, and tranquility. In other words, peace means that during difficult times instead of feeling horrible inside, we feel okay. We feel at ease.
- B. The world and the things in the world cannot provide us with authentic peace. Money, alcohol, pleasure, fame, and fortune cannot provide us with peace and serenity. True peace can only come from God the Father through Jesus Christ.

**ILLUSTRATION:** A number of years ago, a submarine was being tested and had to remain submerged for many hours. When it surfaced and returned to port, the captain was asked, “How did the terrible storm last night affect you?” The officer looked at him in surprise and exclaimed, “Storm? We didn’t even know there was one.”

The sub had been so far beneath the surface that it had reached the area known to sailors as “the cushion of the sea.” Although the ocean may be whipped into huge waves by high winds, the waters below are never stirred.

1. Jesus provides us with the “cushion of life.”
2. Even though the waves of the world surround us each day, as Christians we remain calm and secure in the cushion of Jesus Christ. He blesses us with peace.
3. If you would like this type of peace in your life, then the only way to get it is through Jesus Christ.
4. When you become a Christian and live your life for Jesus, He provides you with this peace.

#### **FOURTH: WE SHOULD GIVE OUR LIVES TO JESUS AND FOLLOW HIS TEACHINGS BECAUSE HE PROVIDES US WITH REST.**

- A. What a wonderful invitation from the Son of God is found in [Matthew 11:28-30](#). “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gently and lowly in heart, and you will [find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.](#)”
- B. **ILLUSTRATION:** A mother and her daughter, dressed in shabby clothes, were standing outside one of the big department stores, admiring the manger scene in the window. It was a large manger scene with Mary, Joseph, the Christ child, and the wise men with their lavish gifts. Finally, the little girl said, “He’s so beautiful, but He doesn’t know the pain and trouble that we have.”
1. Friends, Christ does know the pain and trouble we have.
  2. Some 2,000 years ago, Jesus came down to earth and ministered to the sick, troubled, and downhearted people of his day.
  3. He bore their burdens and suffered the same sufferings they did.
    - a. Jesus is not separated from the pain and loneliness and the heartbreak that so many people feel today.

- b. He has been there . . . he knows.
  - c. He feels and understands.
  - d. He understands and he cares.
4. Friends. Jesus cares so much about our problems that He invites us to cast our burdens upon Him.
- 1 Peter 5:7** - “Casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you.”
5. He invites all:
- a. Who are depressed and downhearted . . . to come to Him.
  - b. Who are slaves to sin . . . to come to Him.
  - c. Who are addicted to drugs, alcohol . . . to come to Him.
  - d. Who are weary and burdened to come to Him for rest.
6. The Greek word for rest “anapauo” (an-ap-ow-o) means “to become physically refreshed as the result of resting from work.”
7. Jesus came to refresh your life if you are willing to give your burdens and worries to Him.

## CONCLUSION:

- A. Why should we give our lives to Jesus?
- 1. Because He promises us eternal life in Heaven.
  - 2. Because He provides us with an abundant life here and now.
  - 3. He provides us with peace.
  - 4. He provides us with rest.
- B. Listening audience, all these great blessings, plus more, can be yours if you would just surrender your life to Christ in obedience to His precious will.
- C. Some of you may be thinking to yourself:
- 1. God would never accept me because of the things that I have done in my past.
  - 2. I am not good enough to live a Christian life.
  - 3. I could not hold out living the Christian life.
  - 4. I am not worthy to be a Christian.
- D. Before you decide to your self that you are not going to obey the gospel today, please listen to this story.

**ILLUSTRATION:** One spring, sometime before the Civil War, a boy in search of work came to Worthy Taylor’s prosperous Ohio farm. The farmer knew nothing much about the boy except that his name was Jim. Nonetheless, he gave him a job. Jim spent the winter cutting stove-wood, bringing in the cows, and making himself generally useful. He ate in the kitchen and slept in the hayloft.

Before the summer was over, Jim had fallen in love with Taylor’s daughter. The father refused to let him marry her because he had no money, no well-to-do name, and a very poor future. Even though Jim was disappointed, he put his old belongings in a carpetbag and disappeared.

Thirty-five years passed before Taylor one day tore down his barn to make room for a new one. On the rafters above the hayloft he discovered that Jim had carved his full name—James A. Garfield—who was at that very moment serving as the President of the United States.

1. You know that people may look at us and think there's not much hope—no money, no name, very poor prospects. But Jesus comes along and sees a diamond in the rough . . . Potential to be harvested . . . power to be unleashed . . . possibilities ready for fulfillment for all who will submit to Him.
  2. Christ saw the potential of the flawed life of Levi the tax collector, and Peter, the fisherman..
  3. Jesus believed people could change.
    - a. He looked at Levi and saw an apostle.
    - b. He looked at the tax collector and saw the author of a New Testament book.
    - c. He looked at Peter and saw the preacher of the first gospel sermon.
    - d. And thanks be to God, He sees us . . . and sees in us . . . what no one else sees.
    - e. He can take our flawed lives and make something meaningful and useful of them.
- D. At this time, let the Lord shower you with His blessings and make you what you ought to be and can be in His holy sight—a saved child of God.
- E. **God's Plan for Man's Salvation**