

EPILOGUE



What we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete. This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth; but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

1 John 1:3-10

CALLING IT AS YOU SEE IT!

The Christian life is the product of choices. God does not cause you to do anything. He allows you to choose and to make your own decisions whether wise or unwise. Choices not in line with His Word result in disobedience and forfeiture of fellowship with Christ, whereas godly choices bring obedience and a growing intimacy with Christ. The secret of the Christian life is not in some mystical connection with the Spirit's power that causes obedience through the believer. Rather the secret is in knowing, abiding, and obeying the Word of God. It is that simple, but it is also difficult because our quest for self-fulfillment often distracts us from pursuing God.

Who Forgot to Mention This?

This book focuses on myths pertaining to the Christian life, myths that the church has assumed to be valid but in actuality are mistaken for truth. They must be distinguished from God's Blueprint, His Word. The chart, *Compared to the Blueprint* on the following page, illustrates this comparison of truth to myth.

How one understands the way the Christian life is lived either

FREE TO CHOOSE

COMPARED TO THE BLUEPRINT		
Topic	Myth	Truth
<i>1</i>	Christian Life Views Are the Same	Christian Life Views Differ Radically
<i>2</i>	All Sins Are Forgiven at Salvation	All Sins Are Paid For, but not Forgiven, at Salvation
<i>3</i>	Sin Is Eradicated at Salvation	Sin Remains Active after Salvation
<i>4</i>	God's Grace Is the Cause of Good Works through the Believer	God's Grace Motivates Obedience by the Believer
<i>5</i>	Good Works Are a Proof of Salvation	Good Works Reveal Intimacy with Christ
<i>6</i>	Perseverance in Good Works Is a Provision by the Spirit's Power	Perseverance in Good Works Is a Choice, Not a Provision
<i>7</i>	Walk by the Spirit's Power	Walk in Obedience to God's Word
<i>8</i>	Transformed by the Spirit's Power through the Believer	Transformed by Obedience to God's Word
<i>9</i>	Fillings by the Spirit Are the Same, without Distinction	Fillings by the Spirit Differ for Walk or Ministry
<i>10</i>	The Spirit Dictates through directional techniques	The Spirit Leads through the Word of God
<i>11</i>	Believers are Anointed by the Spirit to Speak for God	The Anointing, the Spirit, teaches, bringing insight

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aligns with or diverts from the truth. Even though saved with every sin paid for by Christ's work, a believer can and will miss a deeper walk with God because of sinful choices, requiring confession and forgiveness. Each believer, not God or His Spirit, is responsible for his obedience. The Christian is to be constantly open and available to the influencing (filling, leading, and teaching) ministry of the Spirit, diligently studying the Word and living it. Time plus obedience result in maturity and Christlikeness.

