



## FEARS, TEARS & JEERS:

Staying positive  
in a negative world, Lesson #1

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## THANK YOU!

- I've been teaching adult Sunday School for 20 years.
- As a "teacher," it's nice to have "students!"

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## FYI, my teaching style:

- **Strong in the Word.**

You have 168 hours a week and I have responsibility for 1 one of them. My primary role is to feed you with the Word of God. Opinions and discussions are secondary. Hence, my traditional classroom lecture style.

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• **Personal preference for King James Version.**

I enjoy the majesty and power of “Olde English.” I believe it is the translation used by the Rev. John Crandall in the 1600s.

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• **Punctuality, preparation, prayer, consistency.**

My commitment to you is that I'll be on-time, do my homework, and be faithful week after week. We'll have PowerPoint slides, handouts and a 3-ring binder for ongoing study.

I exhort you to make a commitment to be on-time and to be faithful. Learning is cumulative and repetitive.

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• **If you disagree with something I say, please chat with me offline and ALWAYS put what I say through the filter of the Word and the Spirit.**

If the shoe fits, wear it...if it doesn't, don't! There is no such thing as a “perfect” teacher.

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**Let's begin in prayer.**

- That you will be blessed.
- That you will be faithful.
- That this series will help you to be courageous and POSITIVE for a lifetime!

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**NEWS FLASH:**  
**We live in a fallen world.**

• Weather, seasons	• Crime
• Natural disasters	• Accidents
• Disease	• Wars
• Death	• Injustice
• Violence	• Cruelty
• Abuse	• Anxiety
• Hatred	• Betrayal
• Pain	• Unbelief

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**In the midst of  
this sobering reality...**



- How do you stay positive?
- How do you have victory over the fears, the tears, and the jeers?

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**Staying positive begins  
with *knowing you're saved.***

- Salvation is not “I hope so.”
- Salvation is not “I think so.”
- Salvation is not “maybe.”
- Salvation is not a “process.”
- Salvation is I KNOW SO!
- Like childbirth, salvation takes place the moment you receive the free gift of eternal life in heaven.



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**Salvation is a simple  
*Yes or No issue!***

- “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” 1 John 5:11-13

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- “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.” Ephesians 2:8-9

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• “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.” John 3:16-17

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**Your personal salvation...**

- Should be THE defining moment in your life. No other day is more important.
- It's the moment everything changed.
- For me, that moment was on Saturday, June 8, 1985 at the Ramada Inn in East Windsor at around 11 am. That is why I stand before you today.

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**Are you “hoping” to be good enough?**

- How do you know if the scale is tipped in your favor? You have no peace. No assurance. No confidence.
- Christian “hope” is not wishful thinking, but confident expectation of future good. There's a huge difference!

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## A tree shall be known by its fruit!

- If you are saved, then your goals, priorities, motives, thoughts, feelings, words and actions will begin to reflect who you say you are and what you say you believe.
- Good works are a fruit of salvation (relationship), not a pre-requisite for salvation. That's "religion,"



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## So, how do you *know* for sure that you're saved?

### You're signed, sealed and delivered!

- SIGNED in the Lamb's Book of Life
- SEALED by the Holy Spirit
- DELIVERED from your slavery to sin and the eternal consequences of your sin

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## SIGNED

We've all signed legal documents

- Job applications and forms
- Car loans and leases
- Apartment leases and house mortgages
- Business loans, leases, and purchases
- Wills and contracts

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## Your signature has some validity...

- BUT, you and I are imperfect people living in an imperfect world.
- When GOD “signs” a legal document, His validity, reliability and integrity are 100% pure.



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## Who has Authority to access the Book of Life?

- Only Jesus! In Revelation 5:9, the Word says “Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation.”

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- “Behold, I give you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy; and nothing shall by any means hurt you. Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.” Luke 10:19-20

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• “And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:15

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• “And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.”  
Philippians 4:3

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**SEALED**

• Is God capable of securing your reservation, adoption, inheritance in His Kingdom once and for all?

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- Once a worm morphs into a butterfly, can it return to its original form?
- Is the Foundation of Christ enough for a lifetime?



• **YES!**

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- “For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us. Now he that stablished us with you in Christ, and hath anointed us, is God; Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”  
2 Corinthians 1:22

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- “In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ...”

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• In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.”  
Ephesians 1:11-14

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• “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.” Ephesians 4:30

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• “My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: and I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my hand.”  
John 10:27-29

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• “And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you...”

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• “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God.” Romans 8:10-11, 15-60

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**You were *spiritually* baptized the moment you were saved.**

- “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance... he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.” Matthew 3:11
- For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel...” 1 Corinthians 1:17
- “For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body... and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.” 1 Corinthians 12:13

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• “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?... For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, (nothing) shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 8:35, 38-39

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• “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.” --1 Peter 1:3-5

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• “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever.” 1 Peter 1:23

• “If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved, yet so as by fire.” 1 Cor 3:15

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## DELIVERED

We are delivered from hell.

- “Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us.”  
2 Corinthians 1:10
- “even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.” 1 Thessalonians 1:10

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We are delivered from our sinful nature.

- “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.” Romans 8:1-2

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We’re delivered from the law.

- “But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter.”  
Romans 7:6

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### Can you see why eternal security is crucial to staying positive?

- “If in this life only we have **hope** in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.” 1 Corinthians 15:19
- “There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. *He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*” 1 John 4:18

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- It's impossible to walk in the fullness of the Holy Spirit—free of fear and full of love--if you're walking on eggshells fearful of losing your salvation!
- Nothing you “did” saved you, and nothing you “do” keeps you saved. The Holy Spirit inspires and empowers you to abound in good works that glorify God. It's not about “you!”

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**If you're saved,  
you're heaven bound!**



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**FEARS, TEARS & JEERS:**

Staying positive  
in a negative world

Next week's topic: DEATH.

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