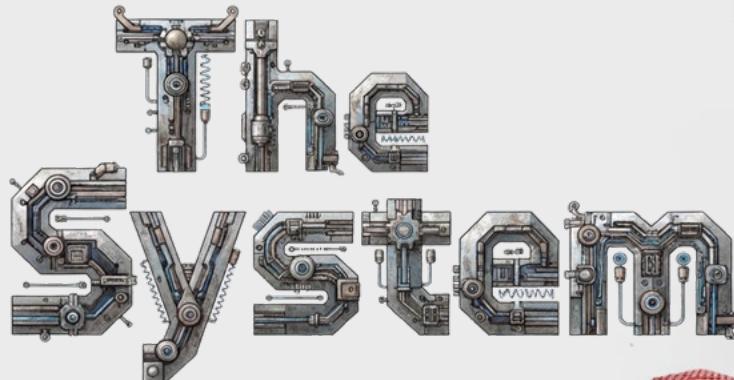
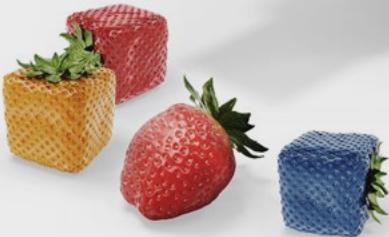


Vol. 2 of 2



or



The Ecosystem

Jesus the Designer's Plan
to Change the World



by Michael H Peters

Jesus the Designer's Plan
to Change the World

The System or The Ecosystem

by Michael H Peters

By Michael H Peters

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From the author: I've generally left my name off books and all that jazz, since self-promotion and selling things about Jesus and His Plan are wrong. "Life" makes a lot of people mad, and as with Jesus, it brings the "liars and looters" out of the woodwork. So people might as well know who to be mad at. For those who catch God's Intent and Vision... just RUN with it. I don't matter. Humans and human opinion are nothing. Only the kindness and forgiveness of God matter. "Only God is good." This book is about that.

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Scripture quotations are from the Holy Bible, NIV, AMP, Greek Paraphrase, or ESV unless otherwise noted.

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Just to be utterly clear: There's no hidden agenda here and nothing to join. No paywalls, no money grabs, no strings attached. We've never taken a penny for books, music, or visits—for over 40 years. When people send money, we send it back, every time. We truly believe what Jesus said: "Freely you've received, freely give."

We're not trying to build a movement or gather a following. We're simply pointing to Jesus. This is about God's truth, His eternal plan, and bringing Him joy by giving Jesus what He deserves. The Bride must be made ready, starting with *each of us choosing* real change and obedience. Take your shot at the inheritance God prepared from the very beginning. We love you, we're praying for you, and we're standing with you, for His glory.

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system [sis-tuhm]

noun. A system is a human-built machine where parts follow fixed rules to perform a specific task. It is rigid, predictable, and ordered, repeating its assigned function until an outside agent upgrades or changes it. It does not grow on its own and is always vulnerable to wear, aging, breakdown, and the need for ongoing maintenance.

ecosystem [ee-koh-sis-tuhm, ek-oh-]

noun. (Organic) An ecosystem is a living, interconnected web where diverse parts exchange value and together create more than they could alone. It naturally adapts to threats and environmental change, with each element learning to work synergistically with the others. It is messy, flexible, and self-healing, a rainforest not a human plan or human-constructed machine.

PrePrologue SuperForwardForeword

*(In book-speak, and I just made that up,
it means “Don’t skip this part!”)*

The Shout-Outs

To the Men and Women

To the men and women—saints, skeptics, engineers, executives, entrepreneurs, young seekers, disillusioned church kids, atheists with integrity, believers with bruised faith—who have walked, strived, challenged the status quo, and asked good, hard, honest questions.

Good on you, mates.

To Gen Z

To the Gen Z young men and women who refuse to pretend, refuse to readily embrace the church-simulation that looks almost real, for an hour each week, each weak.

200 Nations, One Pursuit

To those, quiet until now, in 200 nations, by the millions, who have pursued the Ecosystem of Jesus, rather than tenaciously grabbing on to the ubiquitous System of religion, found literally on every street corner in some places—but is not actually in the Bible.

You have lived with integrity.

You have loved quietly, faithfully, daily, without applause, without programs, without clergy, without artificial disciplers or mentors, without hypocrisy.

You’ve paid a price, but long to “share in the fellowship of Jesus’ sufferings, that they may also share in His Glory.”

The First Witnesses

The Twelve

To the Twelve, our friends who walked with the Master. And even walked on water with the Master. For a minute only, in the beginning. It was an informal but daily apprenticeship, unrehearsed, unscripted. They were Learning to walk as Jesus walked, that they might be contagious to their generation, and now you, to THIS generation.

The 120 Who Waited

To the 120, who waited Together for His Spirit, evidence of God waving them on into the fray. They didn't assume, even with good intentions. They weren't activists, based on being right—though they were definitely right. They WAITED for God to open doors, and then they bull-rushed, no matter what anyone thought, or whatever awful thing anyone did to them. There was no further thought of “cost” because they had given their lives to Jesus. They were Saved and Washed and abandoned into His Spirit's choices. That is the only New Covenant. “The Lord who is the Spirit” said so.

The Early Thousands

To the 3,000 and then 20,000 who tasted Heaven on Earth and saw Jesus Life scaled by His New-Every-Morning Ecosystem. Thank you for daring, as few would in that day, or this day. For this day: Don't buy into the cop-out of we are “waiting” for something else to “drop.” Simple humans in Acts 2:36-47 didn't need anything more than “He has given you everything that pertains to Life and godliness” as “partakers of the Divine nature”—“the Mystery withheld for ages and generations, now revealed in you: Christ, the Anointed One, IN you, the Hope of Glory.” Humans have tried to make us think, with no Scripture to support it, that the Ecosystem of Jesus in His Body was “just for them”. Accommodating “love of the world” has been the “root cause” of this effort to synthesize the Ecosystem into dozens of plastic parts of a System, using Bible words without a Bible Life. This System is an attempt to “look” like the Ecosystem Jesus brought from

Heaven. But this mechanical thing will not Change us or the world, as His Ecosystem can, does, and will. Lack of curiosity on the part of “the common people who hear Him gladly” has to end here. We’ll talk more. But THANK YOU “3,000”—all the way to millions of us.

And my deepest respect and “undying” gratitude to the dozens and scores and hundreds of Ecosystem Prophets and Priests and Gifts, all organic daily lovers of Jesus.

As in the first century, with no System, no titles, no “attendance” or rolls, only DAILY LIFE TOGETHER in Jesus, our 40+ year Journey of Ecosystem together has Changed me and Protected me more than you could know. Some have literally saved my physical life, and ALL have contributed to my Spiritual Life in many different ways. Which is how those Ecosystem Things go, which is all we are about to talk about together. But I am HIGHLY aware that I have personally been forgiven and helped and challenged and encouraged and protected in a thousand ways—over the course of one-sixth of the years the United States has even existed. What a RIDE!

You’ll read more about it all, and WHO you need to be to get There. Notice I didn’t say “HOW” to get there... That’s the “Wrong Tree in the Garden.” Jesus taught us not to make that mistake again. Although some still prefer the Tree of Knowledge over the Tree of Life, the System over the Ecosystem, for “personal” reasons.

The Blueprint

You all, the aforementioned, are OUR first-hand Design Blueprint, from the Master.

You’ve shown us His daily walk with you, that we can get our Path straightened out again as to what the Bible, your Story, HisStory, actually points us to.

Father, may you again multiply your Life, Heaven’s Life, Your Word becoming flesh with “ever increasing Glory,” exponentially here and now.



Pioneers

The Promise

Beyond Imagination

To Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all we can ask or even imagine, to the One who Designed us for *Zoe*, the Greek word Jesus used for (not just “salvation” but beyond that into) uncreated Life, Life that always was and always will be, Eternity Life, Eternal Life, Ecosystem Enhanced Timeless Powerful Life, to grow in and explore In Jesus each new day, +1, +1, +1 —

...for Life to the Full,

...for rivers of Living water,

...for the daily one-another priesthood composed of all who have HIS Spirit,

...for the uncreated Kingdom that cannot be shaken, that finally the gates of Hell can no longer prevail.

Unless the Lord builds the House, its builders build in vain.

“I WILL build My Church, My Community of My DNA Family,” not only for, but OF the Second Adam, Jesus... that cannot be overcome with all the hatred and lies the world and underworld can muster.

...for those who are all-in, abandoned with Zeal for the Father’s House consuming you...

This is for You.

*Please don't take what follows as a negative.
It is an opportunity!*

*This is the Good News of the Kingdom!
On Earth as it is in Heaven!*

Prologue

The Engineer, the Ecosystem, and the Mistake That Changes Everything

“THE MOST COMMON MISTAKE of a smart engineer is to optimize a thing that should not exist.”

– Elon Musk

Every engineer knows this sickening feeling:

You create a brilliant solution... to the wrong problem.

I spent a number of years teaching Systems and Design Thinking in the context of City Building at Harvard’s Graduate School of Design. My students, participants in each year’s cohort, were global executives—men and women already 15-20 years into shaping cities, nations, energy grids, transportation, and multi-billion-dollar projects.

We discussed the necessity of understanding the Ecosystem, not just IRR “internal rate of return” and NOI “net operating income,” waterfall structures and Mez Loans, but the fabric of life they must negotiate and optimize. The community, the demographics of age and education, wealth or poverty, culture, transportation, investors, politicians on a

four-year election leash, food deserts, health, density, and much more. Even the internationally well-known acronym of my website, the obstacle of NIMBY.com—“I didn’t think of it or ask for it, so even if it’s great, I say Not In My Back Yard” must be overcome with good listening and great communication and wisdom.

Systems and Design Thinking Asks:

“How do the parts interact to produce the outcome of the whole?”

The modern church world, for reasons of habit or lack of hating bad fruit as they should, or worse, worldly complacency, compliance, and dough (leavened dough), does not really ask that question.

Instead, the attendance System tries to optimize nameable external components. “If we only did these things a little better, God would descend and we wouldn’t have to keep embellishing our stories about how close to God we are, in spite of the bad fruit.”

- ♦ **better sermons and conjured controlled participation**
- ♦ **better buildings and parking**
- ♦ **better music and performance**
- ♦ **better programs**
- ♦ **better branding and marketing**
- ♦ **better clergy training**
- ♦ **better small groups with better curriculum**
- ♦ **better attendance pipelines and convenient times and venue locations**

But the parts never add up. Because the System Jesus designed was never a System at all—it was an Ecosystem. A living, interdependent organism, defined by daily relationships, spiritual saturation, priesthood, accountability, and devotion.

Do Read Acts 2:42-47...

to see what JESUS brought to earth, on earth as it is in Heaven!

The people of God ran...

- on Presence, not performance
- on daily life, not weekly rituals
- on Spirit, not structure

And then... quietly, gradually...

- Component parts REPLACED organic life
- Ritual REPLACED relationship
- “Not forsaking Attendance” REPLACED passionate life Together
- “Covering” REPLACED relationships with Gifts
- Spectators REPLACED disciples
- Clergy REPLACED the Priesthood of everyone with the Spirit
- Buildings REPLACED true daily living together
- Programs and placing membership REPLACED repentance
- Sermons and speeches REPLACED saturation in the nation of priests’ daily Life Together
- Control and rules and doctrinal adherence REPLACED faith
- “Safety” and predictability REPLACED trust of God’s Spirit in His People, the very Gift He promised, “for you and your children, and all who are far and near, and God is calling you into Him”

We optimized the wrong thing.



Optimized?

And the outcome is visible everywhere:

- ◆ **shallow roots**
- ◆ **fragile faith**
- ◆ **moral collapse**
- ◆ **bored hearts**
- ◆ **exhausted leaders**
- ◆ **confused or depressed teens looking for more, somewhere**
- ◆ **spectacular defeats**
- ◆ **learned hopelessness**
- ◆ **spiritual anemia**
- ◆ **lost generations**
- ◆ **leaven of hidden darkness filling the batch unchallenged**
- ◆ **a wax museum or stained-glass Jesus instead of the Lion and the Lamb of God**

I believe—deeply—that Gen Z is the first generation in centuries with the courage to say out loud what everyone feels:

- ◆ **“The emperor has no clothes!”**
- ◆ **“This isn’t working.”**
- ◆ **“This isn’t Jesus.”**
- ◆ **“Show us what’s REAL—Show us JESUS.”**



Show Us
Jesus

And that is why this book exists.

Because the Ecosystem Jesus designed is not gone.

It has simply been buried under centuries of cultural sediment.

It is alive. And it is rising.

Gen Z, welcome to the door.

What follows is the Path to the Jesus Life Ecosystem. It will cost you everything. That is to say, it will cost you everything you don't need. But WORTH IT!!!! Boom!

PART I

The System That Should Not Exist

“AYO, THE SERMON lowkey slayed and the music was mad presh, but fr, are we all just being delulu? Even if it ate, something still feels ick. No cap.”

The Ecosystem didn’t get pillaged overnight, and the System wasn’t constructed overnight.

The Ecosystem was strangled and trampled slowly.

A substitution here.

A compromise there.

A shortcut, a convenience, a tradition, accommodating biological family, a fear, a political back pat.

In time, the living organism Jesus breathed into existence became a machine on autopilot, camouflaged into the cultural landscape.

Part I is a diagnosis.

Not to condemn, but to reveal the architecture problem. There actually is a very, very delightful and simple—but costly—Solution.

It’s a bit like King Josiah rediscovering the Scrolls, the Words of God, in the rubble of the attempt to rebuild the Temple. He tore his clothes, with a “What were we THINKING all this time?!”

And then it was 200 more years before Nehemiah had a fit because, in rebuilding the Wall around the Temple and Jerusalem, Ezra and Nehemiah realized they weren't even DOING what the Scrolls said!

This is kind of like that. Let's have a fit together.

The Scrolls have always said what they say about Jesus bringing the LIFE of Heaven to Earth, for us to share together His DNA Life... "that the world may know." And yet, lost in the rubble of time, we've forgotten or it's been hidden from us.

But only when you see the cage, can you choose the open door.

The Whisper Game That Reshaped a Kingdom

EVERY CHILD HAS PLAYED the whisper game.

One phrase is whispered at the starting place and then, 10 kids later, it becomes unrecognizable.

That's exactly what happened to Christianity.

Jesus spoke and lived it clearly:

- ◆ **daily life**
- ◆ **daily love**
- ◆ **daily priesthood**
- ◆ **daily exhortation**
- ◆ **daily repentance**
- ◆ **daily Bread**
- ◆ **daily Light**

- ◆ **daily sacrificial love**
- ◆ **daily presence**
- ◆ **daily obedience to Father**
- ◆ **daily partnership with the Spirit**

But within one century, the whisper became:

- ◆ **Sunday**
- ◆ **Clergy “covering”**
- ◆ **rituals**
- ◆ **sacraments**
- ◆ **speeches, books, and music for pay on the book table**
- ◆ **buildings**
- ◆ **holy days**
- ◆ **rules**
- ◆ **attendance, “placing membership”**
- ◆ **affiliation, brands, “covering”**
- ◆ **performance**

What was organic became mechanical.

What was relational became ritual.

What was daily became weekly.

What was priesthood became audience.

It didn't happen maliciously.

It happened gradually.

Conveniently.

Culturally.

Politically.

Economically.

And once a whisper becomes a tradition...

People stop remembering the original words and then deny the origin.

But here's the problem:

Systems produce exactly what they're designed to produce.

And the System we inherited cannot produce Zoe-Life, no matter how hard we optimize the parts.

Some great folks will still be passionate about Jesus, even within that system. Of course! But controlled by clergy if they poke up their hand to object or ask a question, and diminished by the unquestioned and uncontrollable leaven in the Sunday-attendance batch, they will remain spiritually stunted children their whole lives, and never even know it. That's what leaven and a System will do, every single time.

The whisper game reshaped the Kingdom.

This book is an attempt to hear the Original whisper again.

Wax Museums, AI Faith, and the Puppet Master's Boot

MODERN CHRISTIANITY IS eerily similar to a wax museum.

Everything looks almost alive:

- **smiling greeters and ushers**
- **emotional music**
- **meaningful sermons, though unlike actual Christianity as Designed, speeches that are practiced in front of a mirror, for timing and emphasis and jokes, and repeated verbatim at all three “services” that day.**
- **polished lights and LED screens**
- **a well-rehearsed, choreographed vibe**
- **a community wanting to be “family,” but it never happens**

Like AI-generated animation:

beautiful... polished...

but hollow.

Something is missing—the mass, the weight, the gravity of Reality. Like the coffee cup in a movie, we all can “feel” with our innate sense of mass, physics, fluid mechanics, and thermal capacitance that it is really empty. No matter what the actors portray.

Gen Z sees it instantly.

They are the most simulation-aware generation in human history.

They know when something is fake.

And when they resist—when someone asks a real question, pops the sterile performed bubble, exposes a flaw, challenges the choreography—the puppet master emerges to squash anyone real, like a bug. No matter how “respectful” they are, asking questions in the “Flatlands Society” makes you seriously sus. As one “pastor” said, “The show must go on!”



Flatlands

Suddenly the friendly wax museum comes alive in all the wrong ways:

- ♦ **“Don’t question the process.”**
- ♦ **“Don’t disrupt the ‘decent and in order’ service.”**
- ♦ **“Don’t make anyone uncomfortable. We have a special ed small group for you to participate in. Hold your tongue for that.”**
- ♦ **“Don’t question our doctrine. Those aren’t the verses we talk about here. You can attend down the street if you want that flavor. We don’t want that here.”**
- ♦ **“Don’t expect daily life; that’s unrealistic. We have actual real lives to lead.”**

And if you persist?

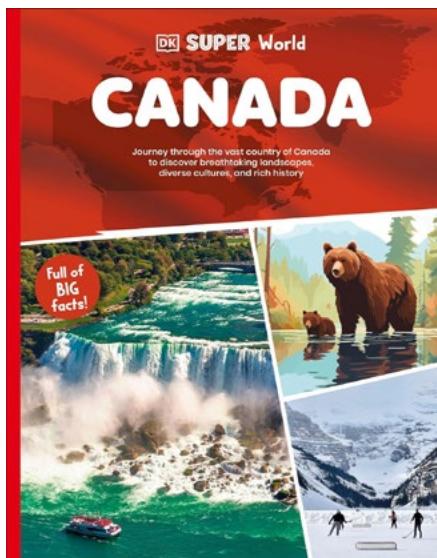
You get the mechanical boot.

The System protects itself. The Operating System has Virus Protection, and you're the virus if you don't quickly comply.

But Jesus never protected systems.

He cracked them open like old wineskins, blasted them open with the New Wine, expanding to be all that it's meant to be.

An Accurate but Flawed Definition



CHRISTIANITY

The main religion of Canada is Christianity: the worship of God and his son, Jesus Christ.

Christians follow the teachings of Jesus, who preached that people should be kind and treat each other as they would like to be treated.

The place of worship is the church, where Christians go to pray and listen to sermons or bible readings.

The vast majority of “church goers” would find this description in DK’s “CANADA” an adequate definition of Christianity. But this pathetically weak summary has nothing whatsoever to do with Christianity, if the Bible and Jesus are our guide, rather than culture! As you continue to read about His Ecosystem, you will see how this wax-museum definition is exactly opposite of the way Jesus lived His life and taught us the church, His Body, was to become!

The Day Christianity Started Running on Backup Generators

THERE WAS A MOMENT—a real historical pivot—when Christianity shifted from power to procedure.

From Spirit to structure.

From Presence to polity.

From daily one-anothering to weekly weakly services.

When did Christianity begin running on backup generators?

Not in one dramatic moment.

But slowly:

- The dispersion from Jerusalem under persecution, and then destruction of Jerusalem (AD 70)
- Separation from Judaism, as the old guard pushed them out, not wishing to believe that the Messiah they had waited for had come. “The real Messiah would have overthrown the Romans, because

that's what we want him to do. So, Jesus is a fraud because He didn't do what we thought was best.”

- ♦ **Rise of proto-clergy, the big dog, boss-man-in-charge**
- ♦ **Adoption of Roman governmental structures, and trying to put biblical names on them to justify them**
- ♦ **The appeal of predictability over commitment—heart, soul, mind, and strength**
- ♦ **And the political need to control crowds**

In the 60 years recorded in the New Testament, “Sunday” was only mentioned twice. It was NOT their special holy day, as Saturday had been for the Jews. It never came up. It came up literally ten times in a recent sixty-minute bible study I was in. “Sunday sabbath” “attendance” is just not what Jesus brought to earth. “I fear I’ve wasted my time on you because you adhere to times and places and holy days and holy ways, a mere shadow of the reality that is in Christ.” -Paul, paraphrased

By the time Constantine declared Sunday a holy day, “Christian sabbath,” in AD 321, the transformation was nearly complete.

The church no longer needed the Holy Spirit to function.

The System could run on:

- ♦ **tradition**
- ♦ **ceremony**
- ♦ **hierarchy**
- ♦ **buildings**
- ♦ **paid clergy**
- ♦ **ritualized offerings, obligatory tithes and dues that disappear into who-knows-where really**

- **Concerts, books, indulgences, “love offerings”—the word of God sold as Peter, Paul, John, and Jesus would never have dreamed of, or tolerated**
- **perfunctory “worship”—enjoyed by many just for the beat or the melody**

It was the perfect storm — a religion like other world religions, but just a different logo and bumper sticker and Main Character. And captured for bottling and exporting in a System that could survive entirely without the Living God. Thus was born a “studied” theo-logic God as a new sport, a “scientific method” Dewey-Decimal version of what Jesus (kind of) brought, that would be primarily desirable to Westerners.



Bottle It?

But the Ecosystem Jesus birthed?

It cannot survive without Him. And we can't truly survive or prosper into “the FULL measure of the stature of Christ” without His Ecosystem of Together Life daily. That's what He said. Hebrews 3:12-14. Do look it up?

And that is where His glory is discovered and lived.

From Lifeform to Machine: How Ritual Replaced Relationship

THE EARLIEST BELIEVERS had no rituals. I mean NONE.

They had relationships that produced:

- ◆ **transformation**
- ◆ **conviction**
- ◆ **joy**
- ◆ **repentance**
- ◆ **miracles**
- ◆ **unity**
- ◆ **generosity**
- ◆ **boldness**
- ◆ **awe**

There were no:

- ◆ **pulpits**
- ◆ **titles**
- ◆ **sacraments**
- ◆ **priests**
- ◆ **worship leaders**
- ◆ **Sunday performances**
- ◆ **stage lights**
- ◆ **budgets**
- ◆ **membership rolls**

There was Jesus.

And there was each other.

But machines can be built (at least, initially) faster than organisms can grow, so no patience and prayer and authenticity are required. Just enthusiasm, cleverness, marketing wizardry, bop music, and slaps décor.

I had a “Mega-pastor” point out to me as we walked into his super-structure that they had even picked out the lobby paint colors to ride the wave and vibe of being a magnet for people. “Like fly paper, they won’t leave.” An amazing paint color it truly was.

Organizations, Systems, Machines feel safer.

Machines can be controlled.

And so Christianity traded:

- ◆ **“one-another-daily”**

for

- ◆ **attend weekly**

The machine looked organized.

It looked holy. It had all the parts, sort of. “What’s wrong with prayer and prayer meetings on a schedule? What’s wrong with hearing another wonderful message from the Word? What’s so wrong with having a worship-service?

What is so wrong with kissing my wife primarily on a schedule, at 6:15pm every day? It is still a kiss, right?! What’s the big deal?”

It looked safe and structured.

But a machine, no matter how well engineered, is not alive. Something, like with the scheduled kiss, is missing. A System is not an Ecosystem.

When Attendance Became Faith and Performers Replaced Priests

PETER DRUCKER SAID it well:

“There is nothing so useless as doing efficiently what should not be done at all.”

Attendance is the perfect example.

Somewhere between AD 100–300, attendance quietly became equated with faith.

And the clergy—the performers—became the main characters.

The Bible Never Commands Anyone To...

- ♦ **“Attend church.”** Hebrews 10:24-26 and 1Corinthians 14 speak of being together to help each other, often. These Scriptures have nothing at all to do, in context, with “attending” Sunday services and Wednesday Small Groups or anything like that at all, if we’re honest when we read them, in context. This “attendance” has actually become an impediment to Life because it allows the System to make complacent

those who are unconverted. It permeates the fabric with poor examples of literally everything, and the norms of what Jesus called “a wicked and adulterous generation” become the norms for those who spend two hours, 1.19% of our time “in church” and 98.81% of our time doing anything and everything else, mostly with the world. No wonder James Dobson said, “Focus on the Family.” The rest is a disaster!

- ♦ **“Join the church of your choice.”** Many truly Saved by Covenant with Jesus are still major babies in the Faith in terms of “the Stature of Christ,” their characters, after sometimes decades. This is because the Machine, the System, is virtually useless for “iron sharpening iron” and “admonish/encourage/be called alongside one another DAILY so that none are hardened and deceived.” They are Washed because they called on the Name of the Lord in their spiritual illness and need to “let this Man be King over them.” They sealed that exchanged Life with, as they say, “the outward sign of an inward Covenant”—immersion, the Signature on the Covenant Document. And yet they are usually still children spiritually after decades, and don’t even know it, until five-year-old little girls and boys raised in the daily KingdomLife expression put to shame a seventy-year-old attender with their understanding of God (much as Jesus did at age 12, with the self-proclaimed “experts in the Bible”). Meanwhile, all the rote, ritual, and hypocrisy are driving away hordes of young people, atheists, and the bored who see through performance and wish for Real answers that JESUS would have given them, had He actually been present in His kingdom of Priests and Gifts scattered into His Family.
- ♦ **“Listen to sermons.”** Guess what? There was NO “sermon on the mount” or any other sermon in the Bible, from Jesus or anyone else. That is a fabricated idea, though *kerusso*, *didasko*, *evangelizo*, *evangelizomenoi* (informal, as with friends, rather than strangers), *laleo*, *propheteuo*, and dialogue were all certainly ways Truth was communicated. But a “sermon” practiced in front of a mirror with oratorical devices, like jokes and personal stories, voice fluctuations and fist pounding gestures? Not a chance. THAT is the joke.
- ♦ **“Respect clergy and greet them in the marketplace with titles.”** Of course, Jesus forbids titles in Matthew 23, all of them related to spiritual stature. They’re all done and gone: Father Time, Reverend Rich Ruler,

Deacon Jones, Elder Barry, Pastor Clampett, Sister Ellie Mae, Brother Jethro, Bishop Otis, Prophet Andy Loss, Apostle Bougie... the whole bit.

- » *Title (fill in the blank, name). All forbidden. But like many direct commands from Jesus, it is blown off as “it doesn’t matter.”*
- » *Peter and Paul were never referred to by any title. John was never Reverend John or Father John or Elder Thunder. None of the authors of Scripture ever referred to anyone by a title, though Paul “missed a boatload of chances” that would never, ever be skipped over in our title and power-seeking religious world.*
- » *Paul mentions 26 co-workers in Romans 16. Not even one of these big-time ladies and men are given “the Greek honorific of a title before their name.” Zero titles. Some descriptions of their organic relationships to others, but not one single title structure in the Greek. We would have PLASTERED that all over them in today’s System. The System neeeeeds that.*
- » *In Colossians 4, Paul missed 10 more chances to call his crew out with titles “for the sake of those he was writing to in Colossae.” How many titles did Paul and the Spirit bestow? ZERO. Again.*
- » *Paul and Luke named 17 more superstars of the Faith. Titles on even one? Nope. Not even the lowly title reserved for laity, “brother” or “sister”? Nope. Why not? BECAUSE JESUS FORBIDS TITLES, and true followers of Jesus don’t need or want titles! Followers of Jesus had and have various gifts and roles and relationships, Eph.4, 1Cor.12, Rom.12, but gift and relationship and respect, earned by fruit-bearing, is all it would, or will, ever be.*
- » *“I may not be an apostle to anyone else, but surely I am to YOU. You are my living letters, if in fact you examine yourselves and Jesus is now living in you.”*
- **“Join a membership roster.”** Oh yeah? Which one is the only one, since there was only one practicing church in any locale in Peter and Paul and Barnabas and Timothy’s days. The gifts and parts were all interchangeable any given day, and no titles anywhere. No assignments by age or occupation or geography. That’s all humans trying to control

money and power and doctrine by choosing their own fire hydrants of doctrinal flavor and street corner.

- ◆ **“Celebrate holy days that weren’t invented for centuries.”**
- ◆ **“Sit in rows.”** “Jesus looked at those seated in the circle around Him. He said, ‘Here are my mother and my brothers.’” Mark 3:34, and the same scene in three out of four Gospels depicting the Life of Jesus from various vantage points.

But Jesus says:

- ◆ **Love one another**
- ◆ **Confess to one another**
- ◆ **Bear burdens together**
- ◆ **Admonish one another daily**
- ◆ **Teach one another**
- ◆ **Encourage one another**
- ◆ **Stir one another**
- ◆ **Live as priests**
- ◆ **Live as family**
- ◆ **Live as light**

Attendance produces spectators.

Priesthood in a daily Ecosystem produces strong, Spirit-led followers of Jesus growing into the “full measure of the stature of Christ” who can change the world.

The System prefers spectators.

Jesus came to teach us, and died to give Himself and His Spirit, to make priests of all His followers, as Prophesied and described from Exodus to Revelation.

The Substitutions No One Noticed

EVERY SYSTEM FAILURE has a root cause.

Not a dramatic explosion, generally, but a quiet substitution—a tiny misalignment that compounds over time. Like the O-ring in the Space Shuttle Challenger, bad things happen when the Design and material and component is not designed for life as it exists.

Christianity's collapse didn't begin with heresy or rebellion.

It began with substitutions so subtle no one recognized the danger:

1. Daily → Weekly

Daily relationships generate transformation; weekly meetings generate information, and welcome leaven, foreign matter, toxins that eventually kill. This is forbidden in the church, though in the world it happens. “The field is the world,” said Jesus. Not the church. Leaven is the unsaved calling themselves saved, and rebellious people with no intention of changing. Jesus forbids leaven. Remember though, “leaven in the batch” is not about “being perfect”—that isn’t happening (1Jn.1)—but about being committed to change anything in our lives that is unlike Jesus (1Jn.3). We walk in the Light as He is in the Light to have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Christ cleanses from all sin. This is the Verdict, as Jesus and John said.



The Field Is
the World

2. Daily Priesthood of all Believers → "Professionals"

Priests leak Life everywhere they go out of the overflow of organic impromptu intersections of relationships.

"Professional" clergymen deliver content or sacramental procedures from their medicine-men roles and office hours. None of that exists in the New Testament.

3. Family → Audience

4. Spirit → Structure

5. Apprenticeship → Attendance

Apprenticeship forms character; attendance forms external beliefs.

6. Courage → Convenience

Convenience feels safe; courage exposes everything. "This is the Verdict," said Rabboni the Master Teacher.

7. Organic Flow → Scheduled Ritual

Ritual requires no faith; flow requires constant listening.

These substitutions weren't malicious.

They were "practical."

They made Christianity easier to manage, easier to franchise, easier to copy from other religions.

But each substitution diluted the potency of Life.

Replace a heart with a clock, and the timing might look the same—but the organism is dead.

Replace the Ecosystem with a System, and the shape might look similar, the words familiar—but the power of Life is gone.

And this is why the System has to constantly manufacture emotion, hype, lights, retreats, and events:

Life has been substituted with simulation and stimulation.

How Learned Hopelessness Became the Default Setting

SELIGMAN'S DOG, the 1960s University of Pennsylvania experiment—not to be confused with Pavlov's other dog—explains far more about the plight of older people in modern Christianity than most theologians could or would. They still have an answer for everything, mostly taken from Matthew Henry or other commentator clergymen wearing collars and standing behind the “coffin on end” called a pulpit.

Seligman discovered,

You take an animal, trap it in a cage, shock it randomly until it realizes it can't escape...

and soon it stops trying.

Even when the door opens.

Even when the pain can stop.

Even when hope is possible.

And it is the same for the two-legged mammals called humans. “Learned Hopelessness.” Stop trying. Give up.

That is the spiritual condition of millions who sincerely love Jesus—but have only ever seen the System.

They tried:

- ◆ **small groups**
- ◆ **programs**
- ◆ **serving roles**
- ◆ **volunteering**
- ◆ **conferences and retreats**
- ◆ **concerts**
- ◆ **discipleship classes**
- ◆ **better “preaching”**
- ◆ **Bible studies**
- ◆ **more Bible studies**
- ◆ **and even more Bible studies**

But nothing produced the Acts 2 life.

Nothing produced daily priesthood.

Nothing produced rivers of living water.

Nothing produced Zoe.

So, they stopped looking for it, or expecting it, or demanding Jesus Life as He Designed it.

They “learned hopelessness”:

- ◆ “This is just the way church works.”
- ◆ “Don’t expect too much.”
- ◆ “Someday you’ll be realistic, like the rest of us.”
- ◆ “That was only for the first century, we have the Bible now, so we don’t need life that is truly Life anymore.”
- ◆ “Someday we’ll all be in Heaven with Aunt Bea, and that’s good enough for me.”
- ◆ “People are messy, so just accept it.”
- ◆ “Weekly is all anyone can do.”
- ◆ “Deep Christianity is for the few special ones.”
- ◆ “We can’t live like Acts; it’s impractical. Two-income mortgage, children’s soccer, you know.”
- ◆ “People aren’t ready for real community.”
- ◆ “We tried that once; it didn’t work.”
- ◆ “This is the best we can do.”

But the truth is far more painful:

They have never seen the Ecosystem.

Only the cage. Only the calculated, contained System.

And when the door opens—when the possibility of daily life, daily priesthood, daily transformation is offered—the System-trained soul recoils, like a dog refusing to escape into freedom.

This is why Jesus said:

**“No one who drinks old wine wants the new, for they say,
‘The old is better.’”**

– Luke 5:39

Learned Hopelessness.

The oldest religion of all.

The Architecture Problem: Optimizing the Wrong Thing

AS AN ENGINEER and “Expert in Residence” at the Harvard Graduate School of Design, home of the #1 ranked School of Architecture in the world, I can tell you: architecture and design determine outcome.

You cannot build the 500,000-ton, 2717-foot Burj Khalifa (the Mission-Impossible-Tom-Cruise-climbing, “world’s tallest building,” in Dubai, a Harvard Architect product) on a foundation designed for a three-foot doghouse.

You cannot modify a bicycle into an F-16 no matter how many parts you replace.

You cannot optimize a failing system into success if the system itself is wrong for the task.

Trying to fix Alaska to grow an orange tree is to fight reality because our idea is stuck in our head. Perhaps optimizing Alaska weather isn’t the right solution, if Orange Tree Habitat Life is the goal. Why not, instead, try to grow that Lifeform in the place it grows naturally?



Seed+Habitat
=Life Form

It is the same with “Growing a Christian.” Why not use the Ecosystem God Designed for JesusLife in humans, that they might grow as mightily as they possibly can in the shortest amount of time, to harvest the best fruit? And that CANNOT be the System of Sunday attendance, programs, missions, and clergy.



Similarly, learning how to dribble an American football is a really dumb thing to try to optimize. Why not just do it right in the first place? Trying to optimize the wrong System versus allowing the Ecosystem to flow.



But That Is Precisely What Christianity Has Tried For Centuries:

Optimizing a thing Jesus never designed. Jesus designed a “walk along with Me daily real-life apprenticeship,” and the apostles then of course did the same with those they encountered and shared life with: the priesthood of ALL believers.

Just to demonstrate further why “The Master Teacher” chose to bring an Ecosystem of Life from Heaven, a daily hand-to-hand apprenticeship (the Greek word for “disciple” is well-translated apprentice), rather than a classroom or “study” or speech, is convincingly portrayed in the book *On Combat*, by Lieutenant Colonel Dave Grossman.

Colonel Grossman tells of the necessity of “high fidelity” training, true life training rather than classroom or theoretical incomplete practice. Everything is different when life is authentic, rather than theatrical or an academic exercise or information dump.

Here’s how it went. A police officer in training practiced disarming an intruder or criminal who was pointing a gun at him. Literally, hundreds and hundreds of times he had friends and family members surprise him with a replica dummy gun pointed at him. The policeman understudy would practice responding instantly, by snatching the gun out of the hand of the bad guy. Again and again. He became very, very proficient at snatching the gun in a smooth, lightning-fast move. He would then hand the “gun” back, and they would soon sneak up on him again—training, training, training.

Then, finally and predictably, came the moment of truth. As the rookie police officer was in a convenience store bodega with a partner, he stepped around an aisle and a criminal pointed a gun, close range, at the officer. They were both shocked at how fast he disarmed the thief. Good on you!

And both the officer and the criminal were also equally shocked when the officer, having magically stripped the gun right out of the gangster’s hand, proceeded to hand the gun back to the criminal. Just as he had practiced 1000 times with his friends and family members. True story.

Hall of Shame Police Academy Training story. And that truth matters to us.



**Practice vs
Life-Training**

People do not rise in real “combat” to the level of their information, aspirations, and hopes, or the great discussions and classes and studies they’ve had. They sink to the level of their training, hopefully a high-fidelity apprenticeship.

But if instead, in a religious attendance-based System, we practice, practice, practice words and emotions and information, even if all true—we will never have one-tenth of the Transformation that we might have had if we were living in an apprenticeship of the DAILY priesthood of believers, each “considering how to spur one another on to love and good works.”

Ritual, attendance, and clergy are not bugs, but FEATURES of the System that is not the Bible. But if we are serious about “the full measure of the stature of Christ” then “I am in the pains of childbirth until Christ, Anointing, is formed in you.”

General Jack Keane mentioned in an interview that there is no such thing as Abrams Tank training on weekdays for a few hours, with summers off. Paraphrased, “If you want to learn how to fly an F-16 or drive an Abrams tank or operate a Patriot Missile battery system, there’s no such thing as a school week. Seven days a week, 14 or 15 hours per day, is the way to learn anything meaningful. Immersion.”

Why did the American school system fail? There’s your answer. Why does American religion fail to help their teens and their marriages? There’s your answer. A System is not how God Designed us. Both the Scriptures and the Fruit support that we should direct our energy towards the 59 “one another” daily verses and thereby discover the overflow Ecosystem of Life He came and suffered unspeakably to bring us from Heaven.

And yet, here are the most common “fixes” leaders pour their energy into:

- ♦ **better sermons, better “pastors,” “preachers,” “reverends”**
- ♦ **better worship leader, better organist, better worship band**
- ♦ **better branding, better marketing**
- ♦ **better programs**
- ♦ **better discipleship or mentoring curriculum**

- better leadership training to make the little people feel more involved and give them a job
- better facilities, better location
- better small groups, better curriculum
- better outreach strategies

But no amount of optimization or programming can transform the System into the Ecosystem.

Imagine trying to fix the Titanic by:

- upgrading the silverware
- repainting the decks
- polishing the brass
- adjusting the weekly schedule

None of that fixes the fundamental flaw—the architecture and path are wrong.

The System's Architecture Produces:

- spectators
- spiritual passivity
- shallow roots
- leadership burnout
- inability to really know or walk with God in His steps
- consumer Christianity
- moral collapse
- teens who walk away

- ◆ adults who give up and pretend
- ◆ unsaved people who think they're saved, so they don't try to find the Real Jesus to wash their sins and fill them with His Spirit
- ◆ leaders who control and pose
- ◆ the wax museum effect

The Ecosystem's Architecture Produces:

- ◆ priests of all true believers, as He equipped us to be and do
- ◆ daily transformation
- ◆ unexplainable joy
- ◆ supernatural unity
- ◆ courage under pressure
- ◆ impossible forgiveness
- ◆ evangelism by overflow
- ◆ deep repentance
- ◆ miracles of character
- ◆ surprise wisdom
- ◆ multi-generational strength

The problem is not the people.

It's a faulty blueprint.

The System Fails, Not Because Christians Are Weak...

...it fails because the architecture cannot produce strength out of the inevitable starting places of weakness for all of us.

Why the System Can't Scale (and Was Never Supposed To)

JESUS DESIGNED AN ECOSYSTEM capable of massive, exponential, organic growth.

How do we know?

Because it happened:

- 120 → 3,000 → 20,000 in what could be counted in months, not decades
- without buildings
- without programs
- without clergy
- without ritual
- without budgets

- ♦ without technology
- ♦ without marketing

Why Did His Ecosystem Scale?

Because:

- ♦ daily life scales
- ♦ love scales: “This is HOW all men will know you have My Life, Heaven’s Life together, because of the love they see you have for one another.”
- ♦ priesthood and gifts (rather than titles or jobs) scale
- ♦ authenticity scales
- ♦ wisdom from Heaven on our lips scales
- ♦ Spirit-led relationships scale
- ♦ transformation scales
- ♦ organic replication by example and osmosis scales

Why Can the System Not Scale Without Collapsing?

Because it depends on:

- ♦ paid professionals
- ♦ buildings
- ♦ scheduled meetings
- ♦ passive spectators
- ♦ clever, practiced choreography

- **controlled environments**
- **managed experiences**
- **predictable outcomes**
- **centralized leadership**

Scale that, and you get:

- **burnout**
- **entertainment addiction**
- **shallow disciples, or even fake disciples**
- **consumer cultural Christianity**
- **endless religiously cloaked fundraising**
- **performance pressure**
- **moral failures**
- **political games**
- **emotional fatigue**

The System collapses under its own weight.

But the Ecosystem grows like a forest. All its forms of life, from the smallest microbiome to the largest, most courageous animal, grow and adapt and create and procreate. Not through machinery or organization, but through organic life.

Jesus designed the Kingdom to scale through people, not programs.

Through priests, not performers.

Through daily relationships, not weekly rituals.

Scale the Ecosystem, and you get multiplication and unique, ever-changing Life. You can literally watch something, anything alive “reinvent itself” to its updated opportunity in life.

Scale the System, and you maybe get megachurches if there's enough talent and money—massive structures with fragile souls, filled with hidden untoachable sin (leaven) and the resulting diminishing of even the good-hearted, as “a LITTLE leaven leavens the whole batch.”

The Cost of a System With No Substance

IF A PERSON CARRIED a chest full of uranium, you might not notice anything at first.

But over time, everyone close to them would feel the effects. You can't hide from high radioactivity for very long.

How much more is that true if GOD Himself lives inside a person, or a joined Life of Believers together?

But the System, even if updated with fun stuff, like exciting pogo stick Tigger dancing and enthusiasm during Jesus songs, still needs daily reality behind it and around it. For some the campus life or retreats or “services” are camp, but IRL it cheugy—the high won’t last. The fun stuff is dank, but touch some grass. It’s got to be fortified with Life in the GOAT, the Substance of Hebrews 3:12-14/Acts 2:36-47 in the Ecosystem that He brought with Him from Heaven. Ultimately, it will be all about the daily Life of Jesus in His Body: the Priesthood, the Gifts, the Light, the Love. Daily. “Walk in the Light together as He is in the Light. THEN we will have true relationship, fellowship with one another. And the Blood of Christ will cleanse us from all sin.”

Everything else has produced a Christianity that leaves almost no trace. Even the roving tent meeting evangelists in the 1700s to the 1900s, who left bars and pubs and redlight districts empty of patrons after they passed through town for a “Revival,” returned a year later to find nothing left of their efforts. The Truths were real. But the effects of Truth left to the unbiblical System of “Christian sabbath” attendance-based religion demolished what could have been a vibrant on-fire Jesus-Life expression for decades and generations, like Acts 2:42-47.

After the System there remains little actual, testable, observable Life. There is little sustainable:

- ◆ **transformation**
- ◆ **holiness**
- ◆ **radiance**
- ◆ **spiritual power**
- ◆ **wisdom**
- ◆ **sacrificial love**
- ◆ **miraculous unity**
- ◆ **conviction**
- ◆ **courage**
- ◆ **appetite for righteousness**
- ◆ **disdain for sin**
- ◆ **joy**
- ◆ **wonder**

Why System Suffocates Life

Because a System built for ritual and safety, control and convenience, cannot produce substance. “A little leaven leavens the whole batch,” hidden or ignored darkness in “fellowship” is judged by God, and its influences spread rapidly to “all,” says the Lord.

Attendance and clergy-based Systems cannot possibly comprehend the difference in the Spirit between a weak, growing, living Life in Jesus, versus a well-studied, world-loving, unconverted poser. They probably don’t want to know, because that would throw metal nuts and bolts into the gears of the cool system they’ve organized. And they may not even know themselves that they are Spirit-less. Are they any more or less than anyone else they know? How would they know? The working assumption is always, “Anything anyone has is imaginary if I don’t have it.”

Dealing with things unlike Jesus rather than maybe having a sermon about some of it, is not a convenient thing to do in the System. So, it’s better to ignore what Jesus said about it. One “mega-pastor” told me, “I see where the Scripture says what you’re saying, but we’d get sued and lose attendance if we didn’t ignore that stuff.”

A weekly weakly attendance model cannot and will not produce daily faithfulness, and it cannot cultivate growing Spirit-Life.

Why not? Because GOD was clear in Hebrews 3:12-14 and elsewhere that without a daily priesthood, “hardening” happens (so we don’t “feel” separation anymore), and “deceived” happens (so we blame and accuse and even name call to evade responsibility). “Get the log out of your own eye. The Holy Spirit will tell me anything I need to know, not you.”

Hardened and deceived is what God said happens if “iron sharpening iron” and “faithful are the wounds of a friend” are not part of our daily lives, organically.

Lunches, trips, errands, stop-bys, shopping, walks, sports, circling up—anything and everything. And “the world will see the Love” in the crew out in public. Clearly, how they dress and talk and laugh, and their obvious powerful relationships are striking to the observer that these are “in the world—but not of the world.”

A clergy-led model cannot produce priesthood. Even if there is a clever format of “engagement,” everyone still knows who is pulling the strings. And this diminishes everyone, including the clergy-dude. He may well be surrounded by Jesus Gifts and Life in Christ greater than his own, but he’ll never find that out in the System.

A building-centered model cannot produce “daily in public and from house to house,” relational, spontaneous, gifted, growing daily ecosystem Life.

A scheduled-service model cannot produce “don’t consider what to say or how to say it,” “when revelation comes to the second one, let the first one SIT DOWN,” power and love in the Spirit.

A compartmentalized religious habit cannot produce a 24/7 Kingdom. This hides the need and opportunity of the Kingdom very effectively.

The Cost of System?

A Christianity that looks full... but the cup is empty.

A wax museum Jesus where the eyes don’t move.

An AI-generated faith that blinks wrong.

And Gen Z sees it.

The System has a cost.

Not in money...

but in souls.

We have lost millions to the world—not because Jesus is weak, but because the System is.

And now, finally, a generation is standing up and saying:

“If this isn’t the real Jesus, we’re done pretending.”

They’re right.

And Jesus approves.

PART II

The Ecosystem Jesus Designed

“NOT A SYSTEM TO ATTEND. A Life to Inhabit.”

The System fails because the System was never Jesus' idea.

It's not defective—it's often irrelevant, except to the Few who find God in every bird's song and tree branch bending in the wind.

It's not broken—it's foreign.

It's not sick—it's synthetic.

Jesus didn't bring us:

- a schedule
- a building
- an event
- a ceremony
- a clergy class
- a doctrinal position filing cabinet
- or a brand

He brought us Life—God's own Life, shown in the face and heart and voice of Jesus—Zoe—and a daily Ecosystem that incubates, nourishes, protects, multiplies, and radiates that Life into the world.

The early church didn't invent this Ecosystem.

They simply lived what Jesus lived with and in them. They had no idea what they were doing. They followed the “aroma of Christ” and responded to Him and love of each other, and the truths that He taught. They learned from the many things they each had to repent of when they strayed from the Path and His Life, and felt that on the inside if they were listening.

This part of the book explains more about Ecosystem and:

- ◆ **how it works**
- ◆ **why it works**
- ◆ **why it scales**
- ◆ **why it terrifies darkness**
- ◆ **why it transformed empires**
- ◆ **why Gen Z instantly understands it**
- ◆ **why the System hates it**
- ◆ **and how it is already reappearing in the world today**



This is the Picture, the Video, Jesus embedded and embodied in humanity for all generations.

Let's walk into the real world now—the world Jesus made possible.

The Carpenter Who Built an Organism

NO ONE WOULD HIRE a carpenter to design a global movement.

Unless, of course, the carpenter is Jesus, here to experience what we do, to show us what can be done with the Life He has given us.

Jesus didn't build systems; He built people.

He didn't form committees; He formed lives together.

He didn't establish rituals; He established relationships.

He didn't construct cathedrals; He constructed character.

He didn't create a weekly event; He created an everyday Ecosystem.

Yeah, the Twelve and the 3000 were frightened by their freedom, too! Like a salesman on 100% commission, no salary guaranteed, the risk is there but the Reward is unlimited. They wore Jesus Together on the inside, just as He had promised, so, as “partakers of the Divine Nature,” the Possibilities are amazing “for him who believes.”

“I'll never leave you or forsake you.”

“I won't leave you as orphans.”

“My Father and I will come to live inside of you.”

“You will be One as the Father and I are One, and We will be One with you on this Journey.”

“The mystery withheld for ages and generations: Christ IN you, the hope of Glory.”

“Greater works than I do, YOU shall do.”

In engineering terms, this is how that plays out when He is not only a thought and teaching and song as our Main Character, but He lives inside of those who have actually made Covenant. That Deal to “die to the world and the world to them,” to be washed, then to “rise up to walk in newness of life” is pretty epic stuff.

Jesus built a self-replicating, adaptive, resilient, anti-fragile Organism and Ecosystem that:



Take the Cup

- **grows when persecuted,**
- **strengthens under pressure or stress, like steel or nitinol**
- **multiplies through open-handed, trusting obedience,**
- **purifies through suffering,**
- **stabilizes through daily relationships,**
- **and cannot be controlled by any institution in this present age, made up of molecules, reptiles and mammals.**

“They don’t have anything I want and can’t take from me anything I need.”

He took fishermen, tax collectors, zealots, teenagers, broken people, nobodies—and he built His Kingdom, remarkably, out of that. I can relate. I stink. I’m nothing. Maybe you know that about yourself too.

That’s how it should be! One guy God called “a man after God’s own heart” was AFTER God’s own heart, even though he was a huge fool and historic failure at times, personally. But his heart was way after God’s heart, failure or not. The Physician only comes for those who admit they are sick. I know it about me. You probably know it about you, too. He can work with that. He always has.



The Tribe

He wants to build a living, breathing, dynamic network of human souls saturated with His Life—and tethered to one another by daily love.

How did He train them?

- ◆ **Not in classrooms.**
- ◆ **Not with lectures or Bible studies, per se.**
- ◆ **Not through programs.**
- ◆ **Not by sermons EVER.**

He trained them by living with them and applying Bible truths “as they would rise up, sit down, and walk along the way” and as He would “live and move and have His being in them,” “in the midst as one who served.” While they were together doing life stuff, they would LIVE in the Ecosystem of truth:

- ◆ **walking**
- ◆ **eating**
- ◆ **praying**
- ◆ **playing**
- ◆ **correcting**
- ◆ **laughing**
- ◆ **crying**
- ◆ **confronting**
- ◆ **modeling**
- ◆ **lifting**
- ◆ **forgiving**
- ◆ **empowering.**

Jesus didn't build a religion.

He built an Ecosystem—a relational habitat where divine Life flows, grows, and transforms. Breathing Heaven's air takes a bit of time to learn.

And Gen Z—raised amid networks, open worlds, interactivity, and real-time life—recognizes this instantly, if they have the humility to recognize there is more to this planet than their wants and “needs.” “Heaven reigns.”



Breathing
Heaven's Air

Daily Life Together: The Operating System of Heaven

EVERY ORGANISM NEEDS an operating system:

- **DNA for the body**
- **Source code for a program**
- **Neural patterns for a mind**

Christianity has an operating system too.

And it's clearly spelled out in Scripture:

“Daily.”

- **Hebrews 3:12–14**
- **Acts 2:46**
- **Acts 5:42**
- **Luke 9:23**

- ◆ **Deuteronomy 6:6–7**
- ◆ **Psalm 1**
- ◆ **Hebrews 10:24–26**

The word “daily” is not a poetic flourish.

It is the entire architecture of the Kingdom.

Why daily?

Because transformation, just as with any human toddler learning to talk, requires constant exposure, immersion.

Constant daily saturation:

- ◆ **to Truth**
- ◆ **to Light**
- ◆ **to correction**
- ◆ **to encouragement**
- ◆ **to repentance**
- ◆ **to love**
- ◆ **to accountability**
- ◆ **to presence**



Daily
Saturation

Jesus knew something modern culture has forgotten:

“We are what we eat.”

If you immerse a plant in sunlight daily, keep it watered and weeded and fed, it thrives.

If you immerse it in sunlight, but do nothing else, and only weekly, most will die.

Daily is the difference between:

- ◆ **relationship and ritual**
- ◆ **formation and inspiration**
- ◆ **transformation and stagnation**

Daily is not about scheduling. Scheduling will ruin us.

Daily is about saturation, and creative unplanned twists, like life itself.

Daily creates:

- ◆ **priesthood**
- ◆ **unity**
- ◆ **resilience**
- ◆ **empathy**
- ◆ **repentance**
- ◆ **humility**
- ◆ **power**
- ◆ **holiness**
- ◆ **joy**

Weekly creates:

- ◆ **spectatorship**
- ◆ **inconsistency**
- ◆ **hypocrisy**
- ◆ **performance**
- ◆ **emotional sugar highs**
- ◆ **anonymity**
- ◆ **fragility**

The System schedules Jesus.

The Ecosystem saturates in Jesus.

Daily is the operating system of Heaven. There is no clock or calendar in Heaven. “Before there was time,” Paul wrote, speaking of Heavenly Things. Life is life. Caging in daily Life by fooling us with schedules, titles, and programs kills Life, or seriously diminishes its ultimate destiny, by orders of magnitude. Guaranteed.



**Jam Packed
Jesus Life**

Acts 2:42–47

Is the DNA of a Living People

ACTS 2 IS NOT a “church model.”

It is a biological description.

It is the fMRI scan of a people saturated with the Spirit of Jesus. It is His Ecosystem, on earth as it is in Heaven. Just as He taught us to pray. “Your Kingdom COME!”

“All of creation groannnnns until the sons of God become their calling, and their potential!”

Let’s read it with engineering eyes:

“They devoted themselves...”

Not casually. The Greek word is “laid siege to”...

Not when convenient.

Not when scheduled.

Devoted = continuous action; voluntary intensity.

“...to the apostles’ teaching...”

Teaching was not a performance, and farrrrr from “sermons” (good grief!)—it was the overflow of responding to issues in front of them with all the new baby Christians: the habits, and carry-over of the new Christians’ childhoods, wounds and ambitions, and the echoes of their old indulgent self-centered lives. They would tell the stories of time with Jesus, describe the ways Jesus responded to critics, and to tests, and insults, and to the disciples’ dumb stuff. “I remember when.”

And the disciples, the apprentices chosen to start the ball of Ecosystem rolling, would apply real things to real people, as Jesus did, by responding from the overflow of His Spirit within, as He Planned. “What does Jesus think about the judgment you carry, do you think?” And to another, genericized for larger crowds that slowly circled around him, the chosen apprentice asked, “That desire of yours you mentioned grieves Jesus, right? You have HIS Spirit in you now. How do you think He feels about that?”

The apostles’ teaching was laying out the paths of Life in the Ecosystem to the living parts of His new Body. “Purify me Lord, from ways that aren’t of You”—and we’ll know what to do next. Teaching. And Hebrews 5, “and you ALL ought to be teachers by now”—and “when YOU are Changed, strengthen your brothers and sisters.” –Jesus, Luke 22

“...and to the fellowship...”

“Fellowship” = koinonia = shared life. Selflessness results, when needs arise, in shared possessions. A shared purpose for being on earth now.

[Peter said to Ananias and Sapphira, “that was your land, and your money, but you lied and were trying to promote yourself.” Shared life is optional not legislated!]

“...to the breaking of bread...”

Not ritual crumbs—real meals.

Real tables.

Real daily interaction.

Food and meals are supernatural, somehow. It’s not just about filling up the stomach. It’s listed alongside prayer and the apostles’ teaching. And when

someone in Corinth needed a “swift kick” because they were stubborn and unwilling to admit the sin they were in, what was taken away? Sharing meals. And THAT resulted in a massive turnaround and saved him from massive, larger problems.

“...and to prayer.”

Not one guy praying on a stage.

Everyone.

Constantly. Praying without ceasing. The subroutine for all, now being “conscious of God” with every fiber of their being, was friendship and companionship with God and “one another.” There is NO such thing in God’s real Kingdom of “I’ll say a little prayer for you.”

What is THAT?!

There is also NO such thing as practiced and performed “prayers” or reading a “prayer” from a piece of paper. Would you honestly speak to a real person, a parent, or a king in some rehearsed, canned way like that?



**Our
Companion**

“Everyone was filled with awe...”

Not “everyone enjoyed the service.”

AWE—the unmistakable sense that God Himself is present.

Anointed

Wonder

Empowered

AWE.

“...many wonders and signs...”

Not hype.

Actual spiritual power. Things Changing, and in season, Signs confirming that these Words were from Jesus for those who had no other way to authenticate them, beyond, “Did not our hearts burn within us as we walked along the way?”

“...all who believed were together...”

Not metaphorically.

Literally.

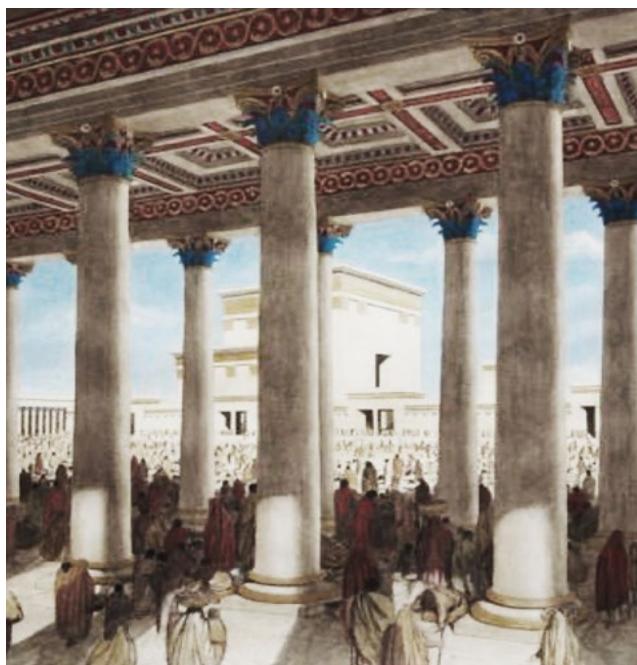
“Daily, in public places, like the city park called the temple courts and Solomon’s Colonnade, and from house to house.”

“The temple,” Solomon’s Porch, was NOT A BUILDING and not on Sunday morning. Acts 2:36-47 was a bunch of folks who had not even known each other before becoming followers of Jesus, Christians with HIS Spirit now in them, walking as He walked with His followers when it was just Twelve and then 120, and then 3000. RELATIONSHIPS, centered daily around Jesus. There IS no other kind of Christianity, if Jesus’ Spirit lives in us because we are Washed and clean.

The earliest Christians met openly in Solomon’s Porch (as recorded in Acts 3:11 and Acts 5:12), but these gatherings occurred any ole day and were not linked to the specific practice of Sunday worship meetings, services, masses or other scheduled meetings, which developed later.

Though some will try to say, “the temple courts” meant a “church building.” It was not.

The large 36-acre area—that’s 36 football fields of open space, set aside for the Temple and “Temple Courts” and Solomon’s Colonnade—was amazingly well suited for tens of thousands of people informally grouping up and wandering from group to group of this new Teaching from and of Heaven on Earth, the Tree of Life and the Second Adam. There was no other space in Judea remotely close to this open park space available to the new Believers to pry out of the very willing apostles the truths of how to “live and move and have their being” in the Risen Jesus who had left His very SPIRIT for all who would die to their own lives to put on His.



“...selling their possessions...”

This wasn't socialism or mandated, as Peter's discussion with Ananias and Sapphira proved; it was supernatural love, welling up for the New Jesus living IN them now. It wasn't legislated or pressured. It was paying attention to others and loving. “AS anyone had needs.”

“...day by day... they met...”

There it is again: daily.

“...and the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.”

“Evangelism,” “Good News telling,” wasn’t a program. Not “Romans Road” or “Evangelism Explosion” or “Mentor-Tutor-Discipler” designations or the like.

It was the overflow of daily life. “They went everywhere gossiping the word” and were “always ready to give a reason for the hope that lies within them.” They had their own Story! If you won an Olympic Gold medal or accidentally found the Ark of the Covenant or Cleopatra’s Tomb or Luxor, Egypt’s “Lost City of Gold,” it might just come out in conversation with new friends and neighbors, somehow, in context of life. AND JESUS IS A MILLION TIMES BETTER, in this Life and the Life to come.

Acts 2 is not a nostalgic “that was for them” first century dream. They had no such plan. They had JESUS living His own Life inside of them. It IS the New Covenant.

It is the Kingdom of God in its natural habitat.

And once you see this, you cannot unsee it.

And 25 years, a quarter century or more after we were forced to ask someone to leave and to “go explore the world you seem to want to grab on to so badly,” they still hate those who asked them to go do what they seemingly are desperate to do: love the world and the things of the world. WHY would anyone hate and call names and plot and collude after a quarter century, after most of their hair had turned gray or turned loose? What’s the obsession? Why can’t they just move on since no one whatsoever was ever mean to them, or took their money or followed them around even for a second? They can’t stop name-calling and obsessing and hating decades after anyone has even seen them. Why?

There is NOTHING like the Ecosystem of God, Heaven on earth even with a bunch of dumb Homo sapiens, humans. (Ironically, the words “Homo sapiens” mean “wise man,” which we’ve found is far from universally true.) And once you have Tasted it and would not allow this man Jesus to be King over you and are asked to leave... you will never have such extravagant life and love and power near you again the rest of your earthly day. And you feel the loss deeply. There is NO replacing it with drugs or attendance or wealth or biological family. All that rings very hollow by comparison to the

Ecosystem of Life in Jesus, Together with other parts of His Body and Gifts, daily, ad lib. That's why.

Look as you may, you cannot find consistent real Jesus Life in a System that is not in the Bible. Good people, yes, but all losing half of their future, at least, due to the System's faulty ways. No child could learn to walk or speak or read that way, let alone eventually comprehend physics or the thermodynamic cycle.

- **Sunday at 10 a.m.**
- **rows of chairs**
- **one automatic, uninterrupted speaker**
- **passive listeners**
- **programs**
- **small groups as optional add-ons**
- **clergy-laity distinctions, and ridiculous, forbidden titles like Father, Reverend, Pastor and the like**
- **predictable rituals**

This is not what Jesus lived or what He brought to us from Heaven.

Acts 2 is the DNA of the Ecosystem.

Everything else is mutation.



**Life from
Heaven**

Priests, Not Spectators

WHEN GOD DESCRIBED His plan to Moses, He did not say:

“You shall be My audience.”

He said:

“You shall be a kingdom of priests.”

– Exodus 19:6

Peter echoed it:

“You are a royal priesthood.”

– 1 Peter 2:9

John repeated it:

“He has made us priests to God.”

– Revelation 1:6

Priests aren’t spectators. “In the Race ALL the runners run.”

Priests, all of us, “put man’s hand into God’s hand.”



Live as Priests

We:

- ◆ **intercede**
- ◆ **act**
- ◆ **wash**
- ◆ **guide**
- ◆ **protect**
- ◆ **teach**
- ◆ **confront**
- ◆ **carry burdens**
- ◆ **represent God**
- ◆ **represent people**
- ◆ **sacrifice**
- ◆ **serve**
- ◆ **stand in the gap**

The 59 “one another” verses in the New Testament? Sure, you can find them in a book or bible study (and “APPENDIX A” of this book). But Jesus wants a Body of Believers where all, “from the least to the greatest,” live that way “Daily.” THAT is His Plan to Change the world.

But the System has replaced priests with:

- ◆ **pastors as CEO and Masters of Ceremony, and presumed “man of the hour, with another wonderful message from the Word”**
- ◆ **musicians as mood-setters**
- ◆ **technicians as engineers**
- ◆ **volunteers as organizational cogs**
- ◆ **members as passive consumers and funders of the System**

Priesthood is not a metaphor; it is the job description of every Christian.

Where does priesthood live?

In daily life.

Not in a building.

Not in an event.

Not in a performance.

Priesthood is incompatible with the System.

One audience + one leader ≠ kingdom of priests.

Gen Z intuitively rejects spectator Christianity because their souls were designed for priesthood. The “God-shaped vacuum in their hearts” needs the Ecosystem of Together Jesus Life to not go insane. Hebrews 3:12-14, all day long.

They sense—even if they cannot articulate it—that they were made for something active, dangerous, sacrificial, holy, transformative.

They want Purpose, not performance.

They want Mission, not maintenance.

They want Fire, not fog machines.

They want to be priests.

The Z-Axis of Reality: Zoe Life

GEN Z IS NAMED perhaps prophetically: they can actually be Gen Zoe.

Zoe is not biological life (bios).

Zoe is not psychological life (psyche).

Zoe is God's own Life, before the world was, before there was time, uncreated Life that always was and always will be. Zoe is the word Jesus chose for Eternal Life, that only has a little bit to do with Heaven.

“This is Eternal Zoe Life, that they may know Him, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom He sent.”

“The religious diligently study the doctrines thinking that by just Scripture they might have Zoe Eternal Life. But oops, they refused to come to Me, the Person, for a relationship. They wanted the wrong Tree in the Garden, so they could stay in control of their schedule and their stuff.”

Jesus said:

“I have come that they may have LIFE (Zoe)—and life to the full.”

Zoe is:

- **supernatural strength**
- **supernatural joy**

- ◆ **supernatural discernment**
- ◆ **supernatural wisdom**
- ◆ **supernatural hunger for holiness**
- ◆ **supernatural power over sin**
- ◆ **supernatural courage**
- ◆ **supernatural peace**
- ◆ **supernatural love**
- ◆ **supernatural overcoming of vices and addictions if we are yielded to Him and connected to others, and Learning so we can then turn and “strengthen our Family,” Luke 22.**
- ◆ **supernatural power over the laws of biology and physics if in real-time Connection and submission to Him**
- ◆ **supernatural unity**
- ◆ **supernatural insight into the world system**

Zoe is radiation, nuclear power from beyond this current realm. Iron Man is lame.

If God lives inside you, His Life must leak out.

But the System is built on bios and psyche:

- ◆ **emotional uplift**
- ◆ **intellectual teaching**
- ◆ **psychological inspiration**
- ◆ **behavioral modification**

It never taps the Z-axis—the vertical dimension—the Life from Above.

Why?

- Because Zoe flows only in an Ecosystem, not what humans call a “church” to “attend.” Good people, some of them, others there are sincere but need rescued. But the attendance-based thing is not where we escape “Flatlands” onto the Z-axis. His Ecosystem is:
 - daily, ever-flowing, not assigned or scheduled or predictable
 - relational
 - surrendered
 - desirous of holiness and Jesus’ stature
 - interconnected
 - priestly
 - Spirit-led

Zoe cannot be scheduled.

It cannot be performed.

It cannot be loaded into ProPresenter for the pre-practiced Show, identical for all three “services.”

It cannot be choreographed.

It cannot be “attended.”

Gen Z senses this.

They are the most spiritually hungry generation in decades.

But they are allergic to counterfeit.

They want the Z-axis—the real, vertical Life of God.

And that Life only flows in an Ecosystem.

The Faith of Abraham in the Age of Algorithms

ABRAHAM OBEYED GOD without:

- ♦ a building
- ♦ a program
- ♦ a priest except Jesus
- ♦ a ritual
- ♦ a schedule
- ♦ a sermon
- ♦ a clergy class
- ♦ a worship set
- ♦ an attendance ritual
- ♦ a doctrinal statement
- ♦ a church website
- ♦ a Christian subculture

He had one thing only:

A God he knew he could interact with.

And a Life that listens.

That's it.

That's the whole secret.

The Ecosystem Jesus designed is built on Abraham's faith. Those with the "Faith of Abraham" may be sons of Abraham, children of God, Saved. A relational, real-time, risk-taking, obeying, surrendering, walking-with-God-with-no-plan-B faith is where the Good stuff is!

But the System replaced this with:

- ♦ **predictable routines**
- ♦ **institutional inertia**
- ♦ **plausible deniability**
- ♦ **men behind the curtain like the Wizard of Oz**
- ♦ **doctrinal correctness, at least their best guess**
- ♦ **emotional programming**
- ♦ **brand maintenance**
- ♦ **clergy-controlled environments**
- ♦ **algorithmic imitation of spirituality**

It became Christianity without the terrifying adventure of waiting for God and obeying Him, no matter the cost.

But the Kingdom is not a spreadsheet or a songbook.

It is a windstorm:

"The wind blows wherever it wants. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it goes."

– John 3:8



**Faith's Secret
to Life**

Faith is inherently dangerous.

Algorithms are safe.

Statistics and demographic and marketing studies are safe.

Systems are safe.

Ritual is safe.

Said someone, “Ritual and predictability are the last refuge of the scoundrel.” Oh. Maybe I said that.

But Zoe requires risk—the kind that forces you to rely on God, not on predictability.

Gen Z actually understands Abraham better than any modern generation:

- **They distrust institutions.**
- **They crave authenticity.**
- **They instinctively sense when something is scripted.**
- **Many want the truth even if it's costly.**
- **They are willing to walk away from social norms.**

Abraham would recognize them instantly.

The Ecosystem is built for precisely this kind of person:

one who will walk when God whispers,

even if every structure around them says,

“Be safe. Stay predictable. Don’t risk. Don’t obey too quickly.”

But faith is not safe.

Faith is surrender.

Faith is fire.

Faith is walking into the unknown with God as your only map.

Rivers, Roots, and Radiance

JESUS USED one of the most stunning metaphors in Scripture to describe the Ecosystem:

“Rivers of living water will gush from your inner being.”

– John 7:38

Not “drops.”

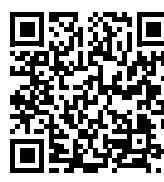
Not “memories.”

Not “devotions.”

Not “quiet times.”

Not “church attendance.”

Not “weekly uplift.”



Tasting the
Powers

Rivers

A river changes everything it touches. Rivers power cities.

Rivers move rock and soil and even villages if you don’t respect them.

Rivers feed, reshape, give life, and carve new landscapes.

Christianity was never meant to be a shallow depression of stagnant sludge, a pond running on a pump to recycle the water, held in by ritual walls.

It was meant to be a river network—a watershed—flowing daily real-time from Christ.

By the way, Christ is NOT Jesus' last name. It means appropriately "the Anointing," through and to His people into every corner of human existence.

Roots

There is a book by a similar name, and you'll find it quite tricky how it is meant to create a System USING the undeniable Truths of Acts 2:36-47 and pushing them back into the cage. Meanwhile, the better understanding of Jesus and His Ecosystem in Psalm 1 describes the Zoe-person as:

- ♦ **tree planted by streams**
- ♦ **roots deep**
- ♦ **fruit inevitable**
- ♦ **leaves unwithering**
- ♦ **influence unshakeable**

Roots grow daily, not weekly.

Roots grow in storms, not under stage lights.

Roots are relational:

- ♦ **deep trust**
- ♦ **deep confession**
- ♦ **deep repentance**
- ♦ **deep truth**
- ♦ **deep connection**
- ♦ **deep vulnerability**

Ritual cannot grow roots. It is plastic, like a binky or a toddler toy. It doesn't grow.

Only DAILY together-life can grow. 1900 years of human attempts to copy and paste "components" of the Ecosystem into their another-world-religion System based on Jesus... has more than proven "it doesn't work."

It has ended up looking absolutely nothing like Him or what He brought to earth from Heaven. Not to the outside observer. Maybe only from the perspective of the stage, when the lights are in their faces.

Radiance

Moses glowed, even without stage lights, because he was exposed to God's presence and presents.

The early church glowed because they were exposed to God in each other.

The Ecosystem creates radiance through:

- **continuous spiritual contact**
- **continuous truth exposure**
- **continuous encouragement**
- **continuous Jesus truth to grow on**
- **continuous worship**
- **continuous repentance**
- **continuous love**

When people live like this, they shine.

Not metaphorically.

Physically.

Socially.

Visibly.

Spiritually.

People notice.

Even snowplow drivers notice and want to move their family to a neighborhood where a bunch of Life happens daily. They even notice from the perch of a snowplow! "This is HOW all men will know you are MY disciples, by the love they see that you have for one another just by watching."



Shine

The Ecosystem is designed to produce radiant humans. It's hard work, but WORTH IT.

The System is designed to produce well-behaved attendees. At least for 90 minutes before they retreat into their secret home lives, secret work lives, and secret buddy crews.

One changes neighborhoods.

The other changes nothing. It's worse than that. It hypnotizes us into passivity and dumbs many down. It tricks us into believing that "talking or singing about something" or "hearing about something" has much of anything to do with BEING what and who Father has enabled us to Be. Abba sent His Logos, His Living Word, to Planet Mud to show us Z-Axis Heaven Life, and then give us the Equipment and Instruction Manual to FLY.

Without the Keepers of the System even realizing it, the System actually damages and diminishes what souls are already Saved in their Sunday group. They could have, along with their families and friends, become Whole and Amazing and Gifted. Instead, they know a lot of stuff after many years, of course, if they are paying attention and care. Many do. But they still can't control their mouths or emotions or habits or time, because the System relegated Jesus to 2 hours, 1.19% of the week. What?! If John or Mary or Bartholomew showed up for interaction with Jesus 1.19% of the time, what would have become of them?

At the same time, the System of Clergy and titles and Sunday attendance meetings in a holy building also provides a camo hiding place for the unconverted who will be surprised when they discover it on their last day. They wouldn't even know until that last day that attendance, tithing, scripture memory, singing, and mental assent to religious historical well-known truths is NOTHING like dying to self-life and the world for Jesus. And there is no other Biblical definition of saving Faith. Oops. Ouch.

"Perfection" isn't the topic. That ain't happening (1John 1).

Sold out and no takebacks or excuses, and if we discover something new to obey, we do. If we botch it up, we "call it what God calls it" ("confess") without excuse or comparison (1John 3).

And "as we behold Him, we are transfigured into His image, from one degree of glory to another, by the Lord, who is the Spirit." Help each other watch Jesus!

The Kingdom That Grows From the Inside Out

HUMAN SYSTEMS work outside → in:

- ♦ rules
- ♦ rituals
- ♦ policies
- ♦ behaviors
- ♦ appearances
- ♦ expectations

But Jesus works inside → out:

- ♦ heart
- ♦ motives
- ♦ desires
- ♦ identity

- ◆ **surrender**
- ◆ **purity**
- ◆ **courage**
- ◆ **faith**

The System measures behavior.



Inside Out

The Ecosystem measures transformation.

Inside → out is the DNA of the Kingdom:

“Clean the inside of the cup...”

– Jesus

“A new heart I will give you...”

– Ezekiel

“Christ in you, the hope of glory...”

– Paul

“Out of the overflow of the heart, the mouth speaks...”

– Jesus

“The Kingdom of God is neither here nor there, it is within you...”

– Jesus

Inside → out growth produces:

- ◆ **real repentance**
- ◆ **actual holiness**
- ◆ **radical generosity**
- ◆ **sacrificial love**
- ◆ **supernatural unity**
- ◆ **holy fearlessness**
- ◆ **spiritual authority**
- ◆ **unquenchable joy**

Outside → in systems produce:

- **image management and posing**
- **piety performance**
- **sin-hiding instead of light-walking**
- **burnout**
- **conformity**
- **fear of man**
- **Sunday actors**
- **religious consumers**

The Ecosystem is designed for inside-out metamorphosis—the kind of transformation that cannot be faked and cannot be scheduled. When God rebuilds a human from the inside out, they become dangerous to darkness.

Example: modesty. Did you know that there are modesty rules posted on the wall of the Mule Creek State Prison, a maximum-security facility in California? Rules for the length of skirts, no cleavage, no sleeveless shirts, no tight pants on ladies visiting. Why? Because they don't want to get men riled up. And those kinds of clothes do. (Unbelievers even know, if you get right down to it.) If those are the rules (and I have a photograph), what would they say if someone came in with a bikini? Right, not a chance they are letting that happen. But if you add water and sun, then bikinis are all of a sudden “officially modest” now, and you’d better not question that. So according to the pagans at a prison system, are there “modesty rules” to be discussed about many “Sunday morning dresses” and public swimming pool and beachwear? Absolutely.

So now, back to us... In the Ecosystem “led by the Spirit of Christ Jesus” and not rules, how does that work? How about, “If you love Me and my Family, you won’t do anything to hurt anyone, for any reason, especially not to be fashionable and looked at. As I told you in Matthew 5:27-28, lust is adultery. Do you REALLY want to create adultery just so you can look at yourself in the mirror and have power over men? That’s not from Me. What’s your motive?”

“The living and active Word lays bare the motives of the heart.”

So, NOW we must be all about an actual relationship with Jesus, instead of stupid rules. It gets worked out Together, if the conversation has to go that far. But in the meantime, we are all growing and tearing off the “layers of the onion” from our crusty hearts to KNOW HIM BETTER, real time.

Religion either ignores everything, or it legislates. Where is JESUS? Only in an Ecosystem of Daily Life. Anything else is judgment or law or foolishly ignoring things that will destroy lives, little by little. And it'll be your fault, the system's fault, when your daughter gets pregnant or has an abortion in college and 70-90% of your teens do a face plant into the world and the devil's playground.

And plllllease don't try to use (misuse) the Scripture Proverbs 22:6, “Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”

First, you cannot honestly believe anymore that Sunday attendance, youth groups, small groups, annual mission trips with other youth (some only there for vacation travel and meeting girls or boys), and dinnertime family hand-holding devotionals is “training them up in the way they should go.” So, we've upped our game from 1.19% of their week, to 4.2% with the additional and VERY questionable additions of youth groups and such. Still a recipe for death compared to an Ecosystem, right?

Secondly, if you were applying that Scripture correctly, where are the literal MILLIONS of old people being converted in all the “churches” every year that should be “returning” now, after they shrugged off the System 20, 30, 40 years ago? They don't exist. So, either God lied, or you misapplied the Scripture because someone told you that, at the same time they told you to ignore the bad fruit of the System with 45-75% of the youth group “sowing their wild oats” with alcohol, drugs, language, and sex.

Friends of the world are “enemies of God.” “Come out from among them and be separate,” says the Lord. ‘And I will be your God, and you will be my people.’”

Gen Z is starving for this kind of authenticity. Really, aren't we all?!

We want to see the inside—the real, raw, resurrected person.

And the Ecosystem delivers that, little by little, day by day, better and better, from glory to Glory.



Misapplied

The Lion, the Lamb, and the New Wineskin

C.S. LEWIS AND KENDALL PAYNE weren't exaggerating:

"He's not safe. But He is good."

Jesus is the Lion of Judah.

Not the mascot of a religious franchise.

He:

- **overturned tables**
- **rebuked leaders**
- **disrupted systems**
- **offended sensibilities**
- **shattered traditions**

- ♦ **defied expectations**
- ♦ **broke human protocol**
- ♦ **refused to flatter**
- ♦ **rejected titles**
- ♦ **exposed hypocrisy**
- ♦ **confronted unbelief**
- ♦ **and died as a threat to both religion and empire**

The Lion terrifies institutions.

The Lamb heals broken people.

In the Ecosystem, Jesus is both:

- ♦ **fierce enough to disrupt the System**
- ♦ **gentle enough to restore damaged sinners**
- ♦ **wild enough to lead by Spirit Whisper against expectations**
- ♦ **wise enough to confound the geniuses**
- ♦ **holy enough to demand everything**
- ♦ **merciful enough to forgive anything with our sorrow on bent knee**

The System wants a tame Jesus—predictable, manageable, stage-friendly, smiling politely as long as you attend regularly.

But the Ecosystem needs the real Jesus—the Lion who tears up old wineskins and the Lamb who pours new wine into the new wineskin, the new container for the new growing life.

The Wineskin Principle

Jesus said:

“New wine requires new wineskins.”

He was not giving advice;

He was issuing a warning.

The Ecosystem requires:

- **new structures**
- **new rhythms**
- **new expectations**
- **new containers**
- **new relationships**
- **new priorities**
- **new courage**
- **new approaches**

You cannot pour daily priesthood into a weekly model.

You cannot pour Zoe-Life into a ritual. Not happenin'.

You cannot pour radical love into an audience structure. Love is always tested—or it's not love. Read 1 Corinthians 13.

You cannot pour spiritual power into consumers.

You cannot hold the Lion of Judah in a wax museum.

The wineskin must match the wine.

Gen Z knows instinctively:

the old wineskin cannot hold the Future.

Aslan is on the move.

*Don't stop your crying on my account
 A frightening Lion, no doubt
 He's not safe, no he's not safe
 Are you tempted now to run away?
 The King above all Kings is coming down*



**Not Safe,
 But Good**

*But He won't say the words you wish that he would
 Oh, he don't do the deeds you know that He could
 He won't think the thoughts you think that He should
 But He is good, He is good*

*I know you're thirsty, the water is free
 But I should warn you, it costs everything
 Well, He's not fair, no He's not fair
 When He fixes what's beyond repair
 And graces everyone that don't deserve*

*But He won't say the words you wish that he would
 Oh, he don't do the deeds you know that He could
 He won't think the thoughts you think that He should
 But He is good, He is good*

*No one knows Him whom eyes never seen
 No, I don't know Him but He knows me
 He knows me, He knows me*

*Lay down your layers, shed off your skin
 But without His incision, you can't enter in
 He cuts deep, yeah He cuts deep
 When the risk is great and the talk is cheap
 But never leaves a wounded one behind*

*But He won't say the words you wish that he would
 Oh, he don't do the deeds you know that He could
 He won't think the thoughts you think that He should
 But He is good, He is good*

– Kendall Payne, 2004

How the Ecosystem Scales Without Control

THE SYSTEM requires:

- centralized authority
- top-down control
- scheduled meetings
- managed experiences
- predictable environments
- limited participation
- controlled messaging
- gatekeepers and invisible bouncers
- clergy hierarchy

Because the System is fragile.

The Ecosystem, however, is anti-fragile.

Opposition strengthens it.

Pressure purifies it.

Viruses educate it and humble it.

Loss multiplies it.

The Ecosystem scales because it is:

- ◆ **decentralized**
- ◆ **relational**
- ◆ **Spirit-led**
- ◆ **reproducible**
- ◆ **contagious**
- ◆ **non-hierarchical**
- ◆ **self-correcting**
- ◆ **self-sustaining**
- ◆ **rooted in daily life**
- ◆ **uncontrolled by ritual, the world, governments, or politics**

Here's the engineering truth:

Living Ecosystems scale naturally, if they deal with disease (leaven)
God's way.

Mechanical systems merely expand through effort and cleverness—
then collapse.

A forest scales.

A family line scales.

A virus scales.

A wildfire scales.

Life scales.

You don't "grow a forest" by holding weekly oak-tree meetings.

You grow a forest by:

- **planting seeds**
- **nurturing roots**
- **allowing rainfall**
- **protecting relationships with ecosystem partners**
- **dispersing seeds**
- **letting nature replicate**

The Ecosystem works exactly the same way.

Jesus' Design requires zero institutional control, because:

- **the Spirit leads as we become acquainted with and fully, gleefully submissive to Jesus' character and personality and words**
- **relationships stabilize and protect us from ourselves**
- **priesthood and the many gifts around us, in others, activates, protects, and feeds**
- **daily life challenges and encourages**
- **mutual love constrains**
- **holiness spreads**
- **courage multiplies**
- **example and wisdom replicate**
- **Zoe-life radiates**

This is why Christianity grew explosively in the first century with title-less Samuel organic leadership, rather than Saul leadership.

And this is why it is growing explosively again in places where the System never gained power.

Gen Z understands decentralized ecosystems intuitively:

- ◆ **Networks**
- ◆ **Blockchain and Crypto decentralization**
- ◆ **open-source platforms**
- ◆ **multiplayer worlds**
- ◆ **co-created environments**
- ◆ **collaborative education and work teams**
- ◆ **viral influence**
- ◆ **fractal growth**

The Ecosystem is built on God's version of this—millennia before Silicon Valley discovered it.

This is the Future.

This is the Past.

This is the original Kingdom.

The Ecosystem needs no control.

Just obedience to the whisper of the Master and the wisdom of “the pillar and foundation of Truth” and its Gifts and Priesthood.

PART III

Generation Zoe

“THE FIRST GENERATION in 1,700 years that may actually refuse to settle.”

Jesus said: “*Those with ears to hear—let them hear.*”

Generation Z not only hears—they immediately detect when something is off-key. They grew up in:

- curated worlds
- filtered personas
- fake news
- counterfeits everywhere
- social media masks
- algorithmic manipulation
- mass institutional collapse
- NPC and clones
- generative AI deep fakes

Which means their “discernment radar” is tuned extremely high.

They can smell fake before the first note of the worship set finishes, by watching the band enjoying itself instead of Jesus, the “pastor” boss going through his notes for his speech when “worship” is happening, watching the swayers or hand raisers or pogo dancers checking out the chicks or

their watches when presumably they were singing directly to the King of all the Kings. In medieval days, someone foolish to diss any ole king like that would quickly hear, “Off with his or her head.”

But because God the King and Author of all Creation is invisible to the naked eye, some don’t really “believe” in Him enough to not get distracted or “use” Him because “this is my favorite song.”

Can’t “see” God so it’s okay to diss Him? Guess what. 95% of the entire universe is invisible, inaudible, and untouchable. And that’s just the science. That doesn’t include the God part or God particle. Our eyes only see the very narrow 380-770 nanometers. Our ears only hear the very narrow 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz. Or they used to anyway. Meanwhile neutrinos, star-is-born particles, are passing through your body by the trillions per second. We want to say, “seeing is believing” and name our piece of geography the “Show Me” state. We think we’re so smart. “Show me the science!” But 95% of the human perception of the universe is empty. God invented the neutrinos, and the cosmic storms that sometimes show up as Aurora Borealis for a bit. But if “seeing God” is your hangup to bowing before Him, then you shouldn’t believe in electricity either.

Somehow the Gen Z crew knows all of this. They sense what the other bandwidths of Life are, even if they can’t easily prove it. They don’t have to. They know what they want.

They can see through institutional motives before the sermon text is performed.

They can sense plastic fruit from across the room.

They don’t hate Jesus.

They hate pretending.

If the System is a wax museum,

Gen Z is the generation that refuses to bow before wax statues but instead gets out the hot blow-dryer.

This section is about them—and why they are the most spiritually promising generation in centuries and need to help the rest of us to wake up while there is time.

Why Gen Z Sees the System Instantly

MOST PEOPLE DON'T NOTICE when the coffee cup in a movie is empty.

Gen Z always notices.

Their eyes are calibrated to authenticity detection:

- **Does the cup have mass?**
- **Does the expression match the words?**
- **Does the leader's life match their message?**
- **Does the community match the claims?**
- **Does the church look anything like Jesus?**

They grew up exposed to:

- **high-fidelity simulation**
- **manufactured emotion**
- **influencer ecosystems**
- **deep fakes**
- **algorithmic persuasion**

And therefore, they have developed:

- ♦ **the fastest hypocrisy radar in human history**
- ♦ **an instinctive rejection of anything artificial**
- ♦ **a visceral disdain for script-driven interaction**
- ♦ **a profound hunger for unfiltered truth**

Gen Z sees the System instantly because they know simulation when they see it.

This is not rebellion.

It is discernment.

This is not disrespect.

It is moral clarity.

This is not immaturity.

It is spiritual vision.

They are wired for Reality—and Jesus is Reality.

Only the Ecosystem of Daily that Jesus Designed and brought from Heaven can join Him in Reality at a meaningfully high level.

It's just His Plan. Daily Ecosystem Light-Loving humility is like the Bank Vault Lockbox. Jesus requires your key in the box before He puts His Key in the box... to open the treasure.

Try Him.

The Hunger for Real: No Perfume Can Fix a Plastic Tree

YOU CAN SPRAY citrus air freshener on a plastic tree, but it will never bear fruit.

Likewise:

- **a perfect worship set**
- **flawless production**
- **passionate sermons**
- **lights and smoke and lasers and big bass**
- **emotional crescendos**
- **trendy graphics**

can never produce:

- ♦ **repentance**
- ♦ **holiness**
- ♦ **spiritual power**
- ♦ **brotherhood**
- ♦ **priesthood**
- ♦ **Zoe-life**

Gen Z wants fruit, not fragrance.

They want, and maybe we all want?

- ♦ **real transformation**
- ♦ **real confession**
- ♦ **real holiness**
- ♦ **real courage**
- ♦ **real love**
- ♦ **real shared life, as Jesus said in three out of four Gospels, a version of “100 mothers, brothers, sisters, lands, possessions, and Zoe Life, for all who truly Believe, who Let Go.” Not 100 third cousins you see on “holidays”**
- ♦ **real spiritual authority**
- ♦ **real faith**
- ♦ **real Jesus**

They don't want the scent of life.

They want the substance of life.

This is why so many Gen Z teens and young adults walk away from attendance-church but remain spiritually hungry.

They're not walking away from Jesus.

They're walking from the imitation ecosystem that cannot sustain, excite, or Change the human soul.

You cannot fix a plastic tree.

It must be uprooted and replaced with a living one.

Jesus didn't perfume the fig tree.

He cursed it.

Gen Z feels the same way.



**Fruit
Not Words**

The Courage Generation

WHEN KRISHNAMURTHY, a Vice President of the World Bank, told me on a plane over Eastern Europe,

“We must wait for an entire generation to die before change can come...” he didn’t say it with cruelty.

He said it with realism.

Older generations often carry:

- ♦ **institutional loyalty**
- ♦ **biological loyalty**
- ♦ **inherited assumptions**
- ♦ **accumulated fears**
- ♦ **cultural baggage**
- ♦ **laziness**
- ♦ **worldliness: lack of true Faith and Conversion**
- ♦ **learned hopelessness**

They subconsciously or even overtly and aggressively defend the System even when it fails.

But Gen Z?

They have no such loyalty.

They weren't raised on:

- ◆ **nostalgia**
- ◆ **cultural Christianity**
- ◆ **denominational pride**
- ◆ **social pressure to attend**
- ◆ **habit-based or guilt-based “church” life**

They were raised in a world of:

- ◆ **rapid change**
- ◆ **broken institutions**
- ◆ **global complexity**
- ◆ **digital connection**
- ◆ **news cycle and political dishonesty**
- ◆ **ideological fragmentation**
- ◆ **social transparency**



Light Shakes
Darkness

Which means they carry:

- ◆ **no sentimental attachment to the System**
- ◆ **no desire to preserve it**
- ◆ **no interest in playing church**
- ◆ **no hesitation to speak truth**

- **no fear of challenging authority**
- **no patience for hypocrisy**
- **no tolerance for fake religion**

They are the first generation in centuries who might actually say:

“If it’s not Jesus, walk away.”

Or even better, *“No matter what anyone else does, let’s do it the way Jesus did it, and the 3,000 and 20,000 lived. Walking in the Light and opening our lives, hurts, and fears to each other, priests all.”*

They are the courage generation. It’s not about “starting something.” There will be no ribbon cutting ceremony or “first day” anniversary. Just live and love without pretense or expectation. Just lay down your life for Jesus, WHILE you’re doing your career and the rest of life.

“In the world, but not of the world.”

Nothing weird or activist or unloving to anyone else. Just “following the Lamb wherever He goes.”

Jesus loves courage. Abandonment, “the Faith of Abraham, to be sons of Abraham and Saved” is courageous. And that can be, must be, for ALL of us. But will you?

The End of Pretend Christianity

PRETEND CHRISTIANITY has three main features:

- Attendance replaces transformation
- Agreement replaces obedience
- Emotion replaces repentance and change

Gen Z hates all three.

They don't want:

- pretend depth
- pretend purity
- pretend community
- pretend worship
- pretend passion
- pretend relationships
- pretend discipleship

They want the real thing.

Pretend Christianity says:

“Come as you are and stay as you are, just participate enthusiastically.”

Real Christianity says:

“Come as you are—then you are invited to take up your cross, and die.

Be made new.

Walk in the Light.

Repent truly.

Live daily.

Be transformed.

Be a priest.

Love fiercely.

Follow Jesus without excuses.

Pretend Christianity is safe.

Gen Z does not want safe.

Pretend Christianity requires no change.

Gen Z is desperate for change.

Pretend Christianity hides sin.

Gen Z is tired of secrets.

Pretend Christianity uses people.

Gen Z demands relational integrity.

Pretend Christianity is powerless.

Gen Z is starving for power. They will *not* settle for fake Pentecost when the real Spirit is available.



**The Beauty
of the Cross**

The Return of Wonder

SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL is happening in Gen Z:

wonder is returning.

Not emotional hype.

Not mystical escapism.

Not aesthetic spirituality.

Real wonder.

The wonder of:

- **God whispering to those who offer their choices and character to Him**
- **lives transformed**
- **real repentance**
- **miracles of habits and vices changing once our character has learned the needed lesson**
- **sacrificial generosity**

- ◆ **daily love**
- ◆ **supernatural unity**
- ◆ **purity that shocks the world**
- ◆ **joy that cannot be explained**
- ◆ **courage, poise, and wisdom in the face of cultural hostility**
- ◆ **spiritual authority**
- ◆ **answered prayer**
- ◆ **Heaven touching dirt**

Gen Z is the first generation in a long time willing to believe that this could be real again.

Wonder awakens when:

- ◆ **the fake fades**
- ◆ **self-life is abandoned into trust of Him**
- ◆ **the plastic disintegrates**
- ◆ **the System collapses**
- ◆ **the wax museum melts**
- ◆ **the puppet strings are snapped**
- ◆ **the Lion roars**
- ◆ **the Spirit moves**
- ◆ **the Ecosystem is trusted in humility and courage**

Wonder is not a feeling.

Wonder is the soul's response to Reality.

And Jesus is Reality.

Gen Z sees Him now—
not the wax museum Him,
but the Lion, the Lamb, the Living One.
And their eyes widen.
Wonder returns.

PART IV

Go There

“STOP ADMIRING THE DOOR. Walk through it.”

Jesus didn’t preach

- 1) the Good News of Salvation or
- 2) the Good News of the Kingdom...
so that people could admire or settle for one or the other.

He revealed them so we would enter through the door.

The Ecosystem is not a philosophy.

It is a habitat.

A culture.

A way of life.

A spiritual ecosystem designed for human flourishing at the deepest level.

Part IV is where the reader must confront the question:

“Now that you know the truth—what will you do?”

This section calls the reader to action, to risk, to daily life, to priesthood, to surrender, to Zoe-Life.

Let’s go.

Priests of the Everyday

PRIESTHOOD IS NOT A ROLE, and certainly not a title.

It's an identity, a calling, a purpose for living.

It is not something you do on Sunday.

It is who all the Saved ARE every day.

A Priest:

- ♦ **watches**
- ♦ **listens**
- ♦ **intercedes**
- ♦ **confronts**
- ♦ **comforts**
- ♦ **carries burdens**
- ♦ **pulls people from darkness**
- ♦ **teaches truth**

- ◆ **speaks hope**
- ◆ **lives in holiness**
- ◆ **walks in the Light**
- ◆ **sees spiritual realities**
- ◆ **protects the weak**
- ◆ **restores the fallen**
- ◆ **tears down lies**
- ◆ **builds up courage**
- ◆ **walks with God**
- ◆ **sits with the lonely and the poor**

Priests are not employees or joiners of a religious institution.

They are carriers of the Presence of God,
radiating Zoe-life into every space they enter.
Is that you?

If not, the Ecosystem will launch you on the way.

But, the System will give you, instead, a spiritual ink blot test to find out your “gift” and give you a job to keep you engaged.

The Ecosystem turns every believer into:

- ◆ **a lifeguard**
- ◆ **a watchman**
- ◆ **a shepherd**
- ◆ **a warrior**
- ◆ **an ambassador**
- ◆ **a counselor**

- ◆ a brother or sister
- ◆ a mother or father
- ◆ a protector
- ◆ a builder
- ◆ a conduit of the Living God

This is why weekly attendance Christianity is so deadly.

It takes those God commissioned to be priests—all Believers, as prophesied from Exodus to Revelation—and turns them into spectators.

The System says:

- ◆ “Sit.”
- ◆ “Listen.”
- ◆ “Simon says...”
- ◆ “Obey the clergy, and touch not God’s anointed” (a phony application of Scripture).
- ◆ “Participate within the program.”
- ◆ “Do not disrupt the decent and in order.”

Jesus says:

- ◆ “Rise.”
- ◆ “Drop your nets and leave your tax cubicle, and Follow Me.”
- ◆ “Walk with Me and My people daily. Do all your stuff, but care about My Presence in My People. You can’t have the Head, Me, without My Body. Don’t even try it. The pillar and foundation of Truth is my Together-Life in My Body, not your three pounds of goo between your ears.”
- ◆ “Speak truth.”

- ◆ “Heal the sick.”
- ◆ “Raise the dead.”
- ◆ “Cast out demons.”
- ◆ “Go into all the world.”
- ◆ “Be My priests.”

Priesthood is not optional.

It is Christianity.

And it happens in the middle of your everyday life:

- ◆ **at work**
- ◆ **at school**
- ◆ **in your home**
- ◆ **with friends**
- ◆ **with strangers**
- ◆ **in your neighborhood**
- ◆ **during meals**
- ◆ **in conversations**
- ◆ **in conflict**
- ◆ **in repentance**
- ◆ **in joy**
- ◆ **in struggle**

The Ecosystem lives everywhere because priests live everywhere.

And the world is starving for priests.

Becoming Radioactive With His Presence

IF GOD HIMSELF lives inside you—how could people NOT notice?

Again, imagine someone carrying uranium in their chest cavity.

At first, maybe no one sees the effect, and no one outside of them is affected—until constant exposure makes it contagious and impossible to ignore.

But soon:

- **cells mutate**
- **environments change**
- **symptoms appear**
- **radiation leaks**

Now multiply that exponentially.

The Spirit of the Living God is infinitely more potent than uranium.

When His Life saturates a person:

- ◆ **holiness leaks**
- ◆ **conviction leaks**
- ◆ **truth leaks**
- ◆ **courage leaks**
- ◆ **love leaks**
- ◆ **wisdom leaks**
- ◆ **joy leaks**
- ◆ **discernment leaks**
- ◆ **purity leaks**
- ◆ **authority leaks**
- ◆ **hope leaks**

People around them feel the Presence of God—
even if they don't have a name for it.

This is why the early church was called:

“those who turned the world upside down.”

Not because they held better services.

But because they carried a Presence that destabilized hell.

Gen Z is desperate for authenticity that has weight.

Not talk.

Not branding.

Not hype.

Weight.

Substance.

Glory.

The Ecosystem produces radioactive humans, born from Heaven's realm—people so filled with Christ, Anointing, that they cannot help but alter the spiritual atmosphere everywhere they go.

This is the normal Christian life.

Turning People From Darkness to Light

THE SCRIPTURES are clear:

Jesus Said Paul's Mission Was:

*“...to open their eyes
and turn them from darkness to light,
and from the power of Satan to God.”*

– Acts 26:18

James Said:

*“Whoever turns a sinner from the error of their way
saves them from death
and covers a multitude of sins.”*

– James 5:20

God Said to Ezekiel:

*“If you fail to warn them...
their blood I will require at your hand.”*

– Ezekiel 33:7–9

Christianity is not passive.

It is rescue work.

This is why weekly attendance Christianity is an existential disaster—

it trains people to spectate while others drown.

Imagine lifeguards sitting in the lifeguard chair watching someone drown—

but instead of diving in, they announce:

“Don’t forget we have a class next Wednesday about water safety!”

Ugh. Sounds bad right? But don’t say the silent part out loud or you will get into SO much trouble!

Here’s the thing though. It’s not an insult, it’s an obvious conclusion from the fruit, so let’s all go TOGETHER into:

“The body of Christ built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ.

“Then we will no longer be infants, tossed back and forth by the waves, and blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of people in their deceitful scheming. Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.”

What is wrong with this plan?! Let’s do this TOGETHER. We’re not to be, and are not, rivals. So, let’s do this new thing, that was the Plan from the very beginning, before the laziness, worldliness, unsaved “Christians,” compromise, Romans, and other godless world religions became our energy and life vampires.

In the Ecosystem, every believer is a rescuer:

- ♦ **pulling friends from addiction**
- ♦ **saving marriages and children’s souls and futures**
- ♦ **confronting sin**

- **offering hope**
- **restoring the fallen**
- **freeing the oppressed**
- **guiding the confused**
- **standing with the broken**
- **teaching truth**
- **protecting the vulnerable**

This isn't optional. It's natural overflow.

It is the daily life of those who carry His Spirit.

Turning people from darkness to light is not the job of clergy, which isn't even a Christian religious position, *per se*. Gifts yes, Overseers, yes, depending. But Clergy and titles and “running the show”—not even a possibility.

It is the job of every priest, every believer to be all that. Read the FIFTY-NINE “one another” verses to see who you Are.

And Gen Z is ready to do it—

in the midst of an Ecosystem where Jesus is unleashed to have His way, gradually working supernatural Life into whoever is willing “*to share in His suffering, that they might share in His Glory.*”

Burning the Old Maps

JESUS DOES NOT use the old maps.

He never has.

Human maps say:

- Go to church
- Attend weekly
- Find a ministry
- Plug into a program
- Follow the schedule
- Climb the leadership ladder
- Stay within the boundaries
- Don't make waves
- Respect the hierarchy

Jesus says:

- ◆ **Follow Me**
- ◆ **Lose your life**
- ◆ **Take up your cross**
- ◆ **Walk in the Light**
- ◆ **Love daily**
- ◆ **Confront sin**
- ◆ **Forgive radically**
- ◆ **Live as priests**
- ◆ **Hear My voice**
- ◆ **Go anywhere**
- ◆ **Fear nothing**
- ◆ **Yield completely**

These two maps CANNOT coexist. Try it sometime in the System. You'll last about five minutes unless God does a Ninevah-level miracle, from the "king" all the way down. And of course, God might do that.

But generally speaking, the two maps cannot coexist. One must burn.

The old maps lead to:

- ◆ **pseudo-safety**
- ◆ **stagnation**
- ◆ **shallow roots**
- ◆ **fear**
- ◆ **hypocrisy**

- ♦ **boredom**
- ♦ **learned hopelessness**
- ♦ **spiritual death**

The new map—the Kingdom map—leads to:

- ♦ **spiritual power**
- ♦ **deep transformation**
- ♦ **purpose**
- ♦ **new purity**
- ♦ **brotherhood**
- ♦ **courage**
- ♦ **clarity**
- ♦ **Zoe-life**

God told Abraham:

“Leave your country, your people, and your father’s household.”

Burn the old map.

Jesus said to the Twelve:

“Follow Me.”

Burn the old map.

If you want the Ecosystem—
the map must burn.

The Ecosystem at Street Level

THIS IS WHAT the Ecosystem looks like in real life—not theory:

Book Excerpt from Meetings in His Kingdom, Chapter 2: The Context: Life to the Full

From December 16, 1990

WHAT does the Church of Christ Jesus, our current part of the Kingdom of God, really need to look like in order to delight her Betrothed? Let's start with the "Helicopter View" of a daily life together before we touch the details and the substance. What would the Spirit of Christ and a Family of Believers living in obedience to His Word look like in our generation? What does a church today walking in God's Presence and full of Grace look like? How can I recognize the Life of Christ, alive again today in His Body, the Church?

It looks amazingly similar to the Life of Jesus in His physical body two thousand years ago!

Here are twentieth (and twenty-first?) century nurses, restaurant workers, contractors, engineers, teachers, business owners and managers, carpet cleaners, and secretaries—clothed in the garb of the teaching and Life of Jesus; a Church that was formed from His victorious death (Gen. 2:21-22; Rev.5:9; Eph.2:11-22, 5:22-32).



Meetings in
His Kingdom

This is typical, natural Life in the Spirit of Christ—a taste of the Life God's Family is meant to have—where Truth touches individuals on a daily basis. This is highly compressed, not actual days. Seasons can change based on what God wants to do and jobs, travel, marriages and young children, internal needs to focus on maturing believers rather than outside believers, but you can at least sense the driving heart, soul, mind, and strength priority system, rather than loving the world and the things of the world and pretending that we can add Jesus to that. So consider this list not as verbatim but as a compressed sample of priority system.

Meetings are filled with openness, faith-filled confession of sin, teaching, and praise in response to all that is currently happening. Disciples bring songs they've written, praise they're brimming with, chapters from books that have elevated or challenged them, video teaching-tapes that have been a catalyst for growth in them, and ten thousand other possibilities. God's Family is gathered, circled in barns, parks, hotel conference rooms, living rooms, apartment clubhouses, gymnasiums, or stadiums. Every barrier between God's Children is destroyed.¹ This is a small part of the New Covenant, expressed from Acts Chapter 2 to Acts Chapter 2000:

- ♦ **Monday Early AM** Many of the saints are gathered at different homes to open up their lives to one another before they head off for work. What was it like? Some laughing; nearly half of the Hebrews letter was read in one of the homes; some passionate prayer for the souls of co-workers; and jubilant praise to Jesus everywhere. Nothing “goo-goo” or hyper-spiritual. Just some rock-solid gratitude to a Living King and terrific friend.
- ♦ **Noon time** Different brothers are together for lunch with each other and some unbelievers with whom they are sharing God's love. Back in the homes, various mothers of young ones are together praying, and encouraging and teaching one another in the challenges of their situations. Practical, challenging time. Some tears are shed, God is honored, and satan is hammered again as the Word of God is spoken into the difficulty. Courage is renewed by Jesus' Victory.
- ♦ **Late afternoon** Some disciples are out on a run and meet an unbeliever. He likes the idea of coming over for dinner.

• **Evening** Because all the Saints were “seeking first the Kingdom,” what started out to be a barbecue with a couple of families and the hungry runner who they found on the running trail at the park, is now 25 people who have found “where God’s Action is” this evening. They’re sitting in the hallway, up the stairway and into the kitchen as various ones share their hearts and pilgrimage with the newcomer. Prayer and worship are the natural product of the move of God this evening. Of course. “Religion” isn’t something we do on some day of the week.² It isn’t an emotional pacifier, or a nice little sprig of parsley on the big, important plate of life. Christ and His Kingdom are real. Jesus is now alive, and reigning as the head of a living body—provided we are not disconnected from Him. Consequently, tonight He has used a Priesthood of Believers to do His Will (as He will where we have not denied His Headship by hierarchies, name tags, and pre-programmed liturgy). “And thus the secrets of his heart were revealed; and so, falling down on his face, the non-Christian worshipped God and reported that God was truly among us.” And thank Him that He was!

• **Tuesday Early AM** Again, especially after last night’s cutting-edge time, a number of the Saints are together to seek God’s Face. (“My Father’s House shall be called a House of Prayer.” Without being known for prayer, at least by the Father, it’s not His House.) This morning, too, one of the women confessed that she was not sharp in the use of her time at home. She earnestly desires some input and a lot of prayer that she might bring her heart joyfully into the Government of God and His Grace. Prayer. Tears. Laughter. Some really excellent time together to start the day.

• **Daytime** A couple of the men who work third shift have given up some sleep to go from house to house amongst the church and some neighbors doing odd jobs for them. Several non-Christian ladies are over for lunch. Down-to-earth, non-dramatic, God-centered life.

• **Evening** Two of the men have a strong desire to teach some of the older children some Truths about reverence for our Father and response to His Life and Love in a practical way. The nine of them all head off for a trail through the woods and “rise up, sit down, and walk along the Way” (Deut.11). When they return, they discover that one of the brothers has called the whole church together to share some things that have been stirring in his heart. Some powerful teaching

about “the full armor of God.” A brother from India who we met in Bombay is visiting with us. He has become a true man of God. He too shared his heart and experience about the weapons and armor of God. All are agreed that we should “declare a Holy Fast” in the church for tomorrow and really pursue God’s application of these Truths to each of our individual lives. We have Bread that the world knows not of. (I hope this Bible verse is your experience, as well—to the extent that you could have written it, even if you had never read it?)

- ♦ **Wednesday Early AM** Some on flex-time decide to call in to work and go in a little later this morning in order to join those that would be praying together. The walls, and satan’s dominion trembled this morning as we sang the song “The People of God” towards 7:30AM... “We’re the People of God—called by His Name, called from the dark and delivered from shame. One Holy Race, saints everyone, because of the Blood of Christ, Jesus—the Son!”
- ♦ **Daytime** It seems quiet on the home front as most who are home have been apparently seeking out their Father’s Love and Word individually. A sister has met a married couple at McDonald’s who are nomadic carnival workers. They’ve received showers and warm food at her home, and I guess they will be with us for a while. Pray for them.
- ♦ **Evening** It started with fifteen or twenty showing up for one of the little guy’s Little League games, and then an excursion out for ice cream. The coach came with us and was drawn up into some profitable conversation about his soul.
- ♦ **Elsewhere** As some of the saints were together elsewhere, I understand that it was a frustrating time in some ways. The challenge from Heaven for each of us is to learn to take responsibility for that which God gives us, in gatherings and in our daily walk together. For many, the years of being a passive audience have taken their toll, and unlearning that dreadful religious habit (stained-glass spectacles) sometimes results in awkward meetings. The beauty of being a family, rather than an organization, is that we aren’t trying to put on a show. We can talk about stuff like this. In fact, we live to talk about, and draw each other up into, the practical realization of the highest ways of our Lord, Jesus.

- **Thursday Early AM** I assume many were together this morning. I spent some time at home praying that God would work in everyone's lives as they met, and as they live their lives for Him today.
- **Afternoon** Several of the mothers go to the park with their children and meet two ladies who live nearby. One is a Muslim. Jesus was exalted today, and the Seed of God will not be forgotten. The saints called quite a number of the others in God's Family at work and at home. They asked that they pray for Rasili and Paula while they are at this critical time in the "Valley of Decision." Tomorrow's time with them should be revealing.
- **Evening** Believers gathered, as it happened, in several homes this evening. At one of the homes, a video teaching tape was stopped only twenty minutes into the teaching when a non-Christian had a puzzled look. As he opened up about his particular confusion, God again used the Royal Priesthood to speak His Word. One "had a psalm, another a word of instruction," another a song. Another had a clear word from Heaven that took everyone's breath away by its simplicity and convicting power. There was little else that could be said, and we all left quietly, knowing that God had visited His People. Prayerfully, the non-Christian won't be in that condition long.
- **Meanwhile** A few miles away, three brothers and a sister were sharing Christ and His Kingdom with a circle of urban tough guys. A "stray" gunshot nearby drew the attention of the police, resulting in the Saints being frisked alongside of the guys on the street. One of the brothers who wasn't feeling all that guilty got reprimanded for not jumping as quickly as some of the others: "Hey! You in the green shirt. Grab a piece of wall!" Possibly all of this will open some doors, in a backwards sort of way, with the "40th Street Gang." Drugs and violence can't really meet their needs. Our God, Creative as He is (and even with a sense of Humor sometimes), can help us reach them through an avenue that we could never have orchestrated.
- **Friday Early AM** I messed up and didn't set my alarm correctly, so I can only say that I know that God's Army and His Truth were surely moving on this morning.

- ♦ **Daytime** It seems like several had the same idea today. Four different people have spent much of the day taking turns watching each other's children as the others read from the prophet Joel. We've all got much to share and so much to learn. But what fun!
- ♦ **Evening** A few of us men are spreading out to various homes to accumulate children in a few places. We'll teach them, love on them, and sing as it seems appropriate, no doubt. (And watch a video with some popcorn, if it seems right at the time! We'll see what happens.) We figure this will also free up the maximum number of parents to have a "Kingdom evening"—an evening where they can get into the homes or streets to do God's bidding.
- ♦ **Saturday** Car repair day today, I guess! The whole church has also enjoyed a cookout together, and some brothers and a few sisters have filled up three basketball courts at a nearby school. The B-ball time was pretty special as one of the guys asked a question about Revelation, Chapter 11, while we were choosing up teams for game four. Forty-five minutes later the large circle of Believers sitting on the blacktop stood back up to continue the "bodily exercise." A good time for the non-Christians with us as well, though not what they had necessarily bargained for. The only singing most non-Christians are used to during a basketball game is the national anthem!
- ♦ **Evening** We didn't expect this as the day was coming to a close, but one of the brothers who was working that evening called a few dozen of us together at 8:30 PM after he got off work. He wanted to confess a trauma from his workplace to which he had had a fairly poor response. As others heard of some gathering, more and more poured into the apartment. Calls were made to all ends of the city, everyone moved to the apartment complex clubhouse and grounds, and the children were cared for by those sensitive to see the needs and free up parents. The gathering climaxed sometime after midnight with a Celebration of the Lord's Goodness in breaking the Unleavened Loaf together. I suppose we already had been breaking the Bread of Life much earlier, in a sense. What a fitting finish to such a time. The songs that were on the hearts of God's Elect as different things happened amongst us this evening were enough in themselves to change every life in a four-block radius. "I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

- **Sunday** We had thought to get together for one of our famous taco salad lunches for the whole church. We did. Six hours later, there wasn't an untouched heart amongst us.
- **Monday Early AM** As we gathered in the morning, for some reason only a handful were there. What a treat the others missed! And some say that God doesn't answer prayers about practical things like illness anymore. Tell that to Dave!
- **Afternoon** A couple of us spent time with a brother who had moved from another city to be with the church here. It seems that his chronic (though curable!) "stiff neck" is making him and his new roommates suffer needlessly. Maybe the "root" in his heart that is driving him is fear, or possibly ambition. Certainly selfishness. We'll work it out, though. He seems to desire God's Ways, and that's the best any of us have to offer. God will help us all. What a challenge we face...to learn the Cross, and yet not neglect His "applied" Righteousness, as we work Truth out together (Col.1:28; Heb.3:12-14; 1John 3:1-10). Regardless of the pain, of this we are certain: "I will build my Community, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it!" Jesus will overcome...in, and through, His Church! God said so. (Eph.3:10, 20; 1Tim.3:15; Mat.16:18).
- **Evening** One of the brothers had called everyone together this evening. After a little while of trying to "force" things (of which we repented), we decided that Jesus doesn't author boring gatherings (it was a real dud). It was recommended that we needed to go do something else with our evening. A fairly large contingent took off for a restaurant, some went to spend time with people they were reaching out to, and others went to be alone with their families. It was, in the end, a nice, peaceful "Kingdom night"—after the twenty-minute "meeting" was adjourned twenty minutes too late!
- **ad infinitum...³**

What religious "category" does this kind of church fit into? What label would the advocates of the "empty traditions"⁴ want to assign to this kind of life and church? Forget all the old labels—they don't work. Truth be known, this is Biblical "Fundamental" Christianity! This is the kind of "Pentecostal" church that you read about in the original Acts Chapter Two Pentecost! This is "Evangelicalism" at its best! This is Christ Jesus—

expressed in His Body in our generation. The corporate Life of Jesus “joined and knit together by every supporting ligament.” **This is Church.** A wedge of Light driven by the hammer of God to annihilate the fellowship of darkness. God’s Family.

“I will build **My** Church...and the gates of Hell (the powers of the infernal region) shall not overpower it (or be strong to its detriment or hold out against it).”

“Now, through the **Church**, the manifold, many-faceted, Wisdom of God, in all its infinite variety may be made known to the angelic rulers and authorities (principalities and powers) in the heavenly world.”

“Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us, to Him be GLORY in the **Church** by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.”⁵

Our objective in living, our very reason for drawing breath? For God to get His way on this planet. And in turn, for Jesus Christ to have a Companion for Eternity—a Spotless, Beautiful Bride, His Church. Can you see it? The Father’s Heart, and ours, is a devotion to the Son, “That He might present to Himself the church in glorious splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such things, that she might be Holy and blameless!”⁶

Amen.

Radiant

*Why do you sit as if covered in grime?
Don’t you know you are donning a gown clean, bright, and sublime?
Jewels and Linen, the Acts of the Saints,
Righteous and holy, untainted*

*With my own hands, that garment is fashioned
By my blood and being, pain and passion
So stand up and show me some style!
I want to see that dress on you, my child!*

*Spin for me—Yes, let yourself be undone
Spin for me—How you Shine like the Son!
Ah, to see you brings me such delight*

*With my changes, I love it, you are quite a sight
 My unfading glory, my unmatched grace
 The love of MY life, on your Radiant face*

*And as you reflect my Glory with no disguise
 Others will dare to turn, to look in my eyes
 And with unveiled faces beholding my gaze
 You become like me, shining brighter each day*

*Spin for me—Show my love to the world
 Spin for me—Let my life be unfurled
 Spread your arms wide like I did mine
 So they'll see my heart in my design
 And of Faith and True Hope, even just a taste
 When the Love of My Life shines from your Radiant face*

*Now you may become weary, fall, be pushed down
 But no one can ever steal your crown
 So stand up, and remember that you were made
 To make manifest God's Glory that never fades*

*Because out of the darkness will blaze my greatest desire
 Shining warriors, overcomers, with hearts of fire
 Thousands of faces, like kindled flames
 One body, my Ekklesia, that is your name!*

*Now spin for me—Beloved, on our wedding day
 Spin for me—We'll dance in resplendent array
 Oh, I couldn't wait to have you at my side
 How you made yourself ready, my Beautiful bride!
 A kingdom of priests, a holy race
 You are the Love of my life! Such a Radiant face!*

-Abigail

Footnotes

¹ In today's version of "church plantings" it is imperative that there be an in-depth study of the culture. Great attention is given to the economic, cultural, and other "valuable" demographics and nuances of the society, with an attempt to appeal to, and not offend, the greatest population groups. Consider how far removed this approach is from anything we read of in the Bible! (Some try to justify it by "verse plucking," but it is only a

rather vain attempt to cover over how lacking we are in the fundamentals of walking in God's Life and Power.) All of this is amazingly unnecessary when the nature of the Church is described by eyeball-to-eyeball touching of people's hearts and "laying bare their motives" with Heaven-sent Wisdom. Meeting men's needs and exposing the shadows and fears of the heart, span every language and cultural barrier. Keep reading, see why demographic studies, or "all white," "all black," or "mostly young professional" kinds of churches become a thing of the past when we're really letting Jesus have His Church back.

²There are no "sacred" days in the Christianity of the Bible. Biblically speaking, the "Sabbath" did not move from Saturday to Sunday. Paul actually said he feared he had "wasted his time" on those who still considered one day more sacred than another. In another letter, he allowed for the fact that those with "weaker faith" might still have a holy day, rather than "every day alike," yet that is not God's intention. God spoke of CHRIST as the fulfillment of all special days. Live fully in CHRIST and you will not count one day as more sacred than another; you will not need "holy days" (Col.2:16-17, 20-23; Heb.4, 9:1-10, 10:1; Rom.14:1-5; Gal.3:10-11; etc.). The recorded Biblical history of the first sixty years of the Church of Jesus Christ never mentions holy "seasons" or holy "days" as "Christian"—the church of Christ Jesus and His Apostles did not continue to do such things as they learned to shed the Jewish "shadows" of the "reality that is in Christ." The Biblical record of the Church only even MENTIONS "the first day of the week," or Sunday, TWICE. In sixty years. Is it not true that a record of sixty years of the churches that most are a part of today would have far more than two references to Sunday? Remember, it must be an "orderly account" by someone like a medical doctor of perhaps apostolic stature, a man such as Luke—the author of the original church record, the Book of Acts. "The Lord's Day" as Sunday, a special day to have a two hour "service," is a shortcut that has replaced the Reality of Christ's Church—we find such a church nowhere in the Scriptures.

For you history buffs, it seems that the concept of "the Lord's Day" as Sunday arose in Ephesus six decades after the Church was born (*Christ in the Churches*, Logos Tapes, Hazlet, NJ). Interestingly, the phrase "the Lord's Day" only occurs once in the entire New Testament (Rev.1:10), and likely has no reference to a special day of the week even in that instance. Such would be contrary to the very nature of Christianity—the celebration of Life and Reality that *fulfill* and enlarge the types and shadows of the

“externals” in the Old Covenant. The phrase should likely be translated, as it is in every other case (in its Old Testament usage), in the possessive case as “the Day of the Lord”—rather than “the Lord’s Day.” The entire book of Revelation is, in fact, about “the Day of the Lord,” not about “Sunday.” What a difference! At least consider the fact that Jesus’ Life was never centered around a two hour “service” while He was here, so why should it be now?!

³ *The Church Prepared for the Return of Christ.*

⁴ 1Peter 1:18.

⁵ Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 3:10 (Amplified Version), 3:20.

⁶ Ephesians 5:27; Revelation 21:2; 2Peter 3:12a; Acts 3:19-21.

Ordinary Rhythms, Supernatural Life

Daily conversations

Not forced, not scheduled—natural, relational, Spirit-led.

Shared meals

Tables are the first altars of the Kingdom.

Mutual confession and repentance

No shame.

No hiding.

No masks.

Shared burdens

Financial, emotional, relational, spiritual.

Teaching one another

Not a professional monopoly.

Daily encouragement

Hebrews 3:13 is not optional.

Correction and accountability

Gentle, loving, firm, consistent, wise, insightful, hopeful.

Serving spontaneously

Not through programs—through relationships.

Prayer woven into normal life

Not a scheduled ritual. Not pressure or religiosity, but overflow, need, and co-laboring with God and one another.

jesuslifetogether.com/mechanical-vs-rivers-of-living-water/mechanical-christianity

Sacrificial love

Giving until it hurts—like “the widow with two coins,” like Jesus Himself.

Spiritual maturity spreading through imitation

Example > curriculum.

New disciples forming naturally

No pipeline, no program, no manual—just life.

This is why the Ecosystem is powerful:

It works at street level.

It works in kitchens, living rooms, parking lots, cafeterias, dorms, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

It works anywhere humans live.

The System needs:

- ◆ a building
- ◆ a schedule
- ◆ a budget

- ◆ a staff
- ◆ a program
- ◆ a pipeline
- ◆ a performance
- ◆ a ritual

The Ecosystem needs:

- ◆ Jesus
- ◆ and each other

That's it. Nothing more and nothing less.



Your Family?

Epilogue

This Is the Door. Walk Through It.

YOU'VE REACHED THE END of the book,

but the beginning of the Kingdom.

Scripture says:

***“We have come to share in Christ
if we hold our confidence firmly to the end.”***

– Hebrews 3:14

Not attend church.

Share in Christ.

Not spectate.

Participate in the Divine Nature.

Not admire Jesus.

Walk with Him daily.

Not admire the Ecosystem.

Live it.

The door is open.

The cage is unlocked.

The Spirit is calling.

The System had centuries to prove itself.

It failed. It's a priority-system problem. With some uncanny blindness to the Scriptures mixed in. But NO MORE.

Jesus never failed.

His Ecosystem never failed, it is just seldom enabled with trust, daily love, and courage.

His Kingdom never failed.

You were not made to be a spectator.

You were not made to be a consumer.

You were not made for the wax museum.

You were not made to live in a simulation, an avatar of someone else's LIFE.

You were made for:

- ◆ **priesthood**
- ◆ **courage**
- ◆ **truth**
- ◆ **holiness**
- ◆ **transformation**
- ◆ **daily brotherhood**
- ◆ **Zoe-life**
- ◆ **radiance**
- ◆ **sacrifice**
- ◆ **joy**

- ♦ **the Spirit**
- ♦ **the Kingdom**

This is the door.

Walk through it.

PART V

Appendices and Resources

THIS FINAL SECTION is a set of practical tools, clarifications, frameworks, and invitations that support the reader in actually living the Ecosystem Jesus designed.

Think of this as the “field kit” for the Kingdom.

It includes:

- ♦ **Appendices A-F**
- ♦ **Model Practices**
- ♦ **Definitions**
- ♦ **Histories**
- ♦ **Practical Guides**
- ♦ **FAQs**
- ♦ **A Launch-path for Communities**
- ♦ **About the Author**
- ♦ **Final Blessing**

Let's finish this.

APPENDIX A

Key Scriptures for the Ecosystem Life

THIS APPENDIX GATHERS the biblical backbone of everything taught in the book—the non-negotiables that define the Ecosystem and expose the System.

1. Daily Life Together

- Hebrews 3:12–14
- Acts 2:42–47
- Acts 5:42—“Day after day...”
- Deuteronomy 6:6–9—“as you rise, sit, walk...”

2. Kingdom of Priests

- Exodus 19:5–6
- Isaiah 61:6
- 1 Peter 2:9
- Revelation 1:6; 5:10

3. Turning Others Toward God

- ◆ James 5:19–20
- ◆ Galatians 6:1
- ◆ 2 Timothy 2:24–26
- ◆ Ezekiel 33:7–9
- ◆ Acts 26:17–18

4. The Presence and Power of the Spirit

- ◆ John 7:38—rivers of living water
- ◆ Romans 8:11—resurrection power lives in you
- ◆ Colossians 1:27—Christ in you, the hope of glory
- ◆ 1 Corinthians 6:17—one in Spirit with Him

5. Holiness, Love, and Identity

- ◆ 1 John 2:15–17—do not love the world
- ◆ 1 John 3:1–10—children of God vs children of darkness
- ◆ Galatians 5:16–26—walking by the Spirit
- ◆ John 13:34–35—the mark of His disciples

6. The 59 “One Another” Verses

POSITIVE COMMANDS

- ◆ John 13:34—Love one another
(this command occurs at least 16 times)
- ◆ Romans 12:10—Be devoted to one another
- ◆ Romans 12:10—Honor one another above yourselves

- ♦ **Romans 12:16—Live in harmony with one another**
- ♦ **Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11—Build up one another**
- ♦ **Romans 15:5—Be likeminded towards one another**
- ♦ **Romans 15:7—Accept one another**
- ♦ **Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16—Admonish one another**
- ♦ **Romans 16:16—Greet one another**
- ♦ **1 Corinthians 12:25—Care for one another**
- ♦ **Galatians 5:13—Serve one another**
- ♦ **Galatians 6:2—Bear one another's burdens**
- ♦ **Ephesians 4:2, 32; Colossians 3:13—Forgive one another**
- ♦ **Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13—Be patient with one another**
- ♦ **Ephesians 4:15, 25—Speak the truth in love**
- ♦ **Ephesians 4:32—Be kind and compassionate to one another**
- ♦ **Ephesians 5:19—Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs**
- ♦ **Ephesians 5:21, 1 Peter 5:5—Submit to one another**
- ♦ **Philippians 2:3—Consider others better than yourselves**
- ♦ **Philippians 2:4—Look to the interests of one another**
- ♦ **Colossians 3:13—Bear with one another**
- ♦ **Colossians 3:16—Teach one another**
- ♦ **1 Thessalonians 4:18—Comfort one another**
- ♦ **1 Thessalonians 5:11—Encourage one another**
- ♦ **Hebrews 3:13—Exhort one another**

- ♦ Hebrews 10:24—Stir up [provoke, stimulate] one another to love and good works
- ♦ 1 Peter 4:9—Show hospitality to one another
- ♦ 1 Peter 4:10—Employ the gifts that God has given us for the benefit of one another
- ♦ 1 Peter 5:5—Clothe yourselves with humility towards one another
- ♦ James 5:16—Pray for one another
- ♦ James 5:16—Confess your faults to one another

NEGATIVE COMMANDS (how *not* to treat one another)

- ♦ Colossians 3:9—Do not lie to one another
- ♦ Romans 14:13—Stop passing judgment on one another
- ♦ Galatians 5:15—If you keep on biting and devouring each other... you'll be destroyed by each other
- ♦ Galatians 5:26—Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other
- ♦ James 4:11—Do not slander one another
- ♦ James 5:9—Don't grumble against each other
- ♦ Romans 12:5;
Ephesians 4:25—We do all this because we are in a real sense
“members of one another”

The Ecosystem is not theory. It is Scripture, and our Experience.

The System is not in Scripture. It is made-up by the Whisper Game, “puzzle pieces” trying to make a picture that can’t bear the Fruit (and trouble) the Ecosystem can and will, “through much tribulation.”

The religious unconverted like Constantine, incorporated numerous pagan false-god ceremonies and holy days and authority structures to

homogenize and control his diverse conquered tribes and peoples in the brutal Roman Empire. Caesar surmised from studying of world history and war that language bridges and all-purpose religion would be advantageous in minimizing conflict.

Dilute, dilute, dilute, substitute, relabel to make everyone happy, even if it all no longer is Christianity or a church. Church was never a building or attendance. “Go to church” made NO sense to anyone.

Until Constantine blended all his religious stuff to keep control. It worked, mostly. To this day. Baskin-Robbins’ 31 flavors of buildings and clergy and niche doctrines is better than internal conflict. But now we are light years from the practice or teaching of the Scriptures, or its natural fruit.



31 Flavors

Why not stick to what Jesus did and said, and those He apprenticed daily, Acts 2:42-47? Do we really take the Bible as seriously as we say we do?

Who believes the Bible is God’s actual inspired words to the human race?

Pentecostals do. David Limbaugh: “Biblical inerrancy was not only affirmed unambiguously by Jesus Christ, but is foundational to our firm reliance on God’s promises and revelations contained in the Bible.”

Lutherans do. Martin Luther: “Unless I am convinced of error by the testimony of Scriptures or...by manifest reasoning I stand convicted by the Scriptures to which I have appealed, and my conscience is taken captive by God’s Word, I cannot and will not recant anything... On this I take my stand. I can do no other. God help me.”

Presbyterians do. John Ankerberg: “Biblical inerrancy, properly understood, affirms Scripture’s accuracy in every area it addresses. God’s Word records the history of humanity, the teachings of our Savior, numerous fulfilled prophecies, and the principles of our faith.”

Anglicans do. J.I. Packer: “The ultimate reason why believers recognize the Bible as God’s Word is because God’s resurrection power witnesses to its truth as the Spirit opens the mind and heart.” Amen.

Reformed do. Charles Spurgeon: “I believe certain doctrines because God says they are true; and the only authority I have for their truth is the Word of God.”

Baptists do. Billy Graham: “The Bible has stood the test of time because it is divinely inspired by Almighty God, written in ink that cannot be erased by any man, religion, or belief system. God’s Word is pure—the beginning and the end. His written word has survived every scratch of the human pen.”

Methodists do. John Wesley: “Those who are not sure that they have the very inspired, inerrant and preserved Word of God in their hands today, can never fulfil the command to go forth.”

SO! Why not actually pursue that line of thought instead of allowing the whisper game of culture and compromise and centuries turn us into something that CANNOT be found in the Scriptures at all? Particularly, when (according to the famous authors and leaders and pollsters of modern christendom) literally millions of young people, 70% of “church attendance” teens abandon religion, and millions more admit to drugs, alcohol, immorality, and foul language and depressed lives.

APPENDIX B

Historical Drift: A Timeline of System-Formation

OVERVIEW OF HOW the System evolved over centuries—what we've inherited is not what Jesus built.

AD 30–100: The Ecosystem Era

- Daily life, shared homes, no clergy
- No buildings
- No sermons-as-performance
- No Sunday services
- No sacraments as rituals
- No hierarchy
- No paid pastors
- No memberships

AD 100–300: The Slow Drift

- ♦ Sunday begins to be used symbolically
- ♦ Written liturgies appear
- ♦ Clergy class begins forming
- ♦ First “christian religious church buildings” built (Aqaba in Jordan, AD 293)
- ♦ Influence of Roman and Greek logic and meeting structure
- ♦ Borrowed ideas from Mithraism and other weirdness
- ♦ Birth of “the bishop system”

AD 313: Constantine and the Systemization

- ♦ Sunday becomes law
- ♦ Christianity becomes political
- ♦ Buildings become central
- ♦ Hierarchy calcifies
- ♦ Pagan practices such as Christmas and Easter imported and Christianized as holy days.
- ♦ Christmas, Saturnalia and Sol Invictus, AD 336. Easter, Fertility goddess Eostre, AD 325. Halloween, Celtic Samhain, Feast of the Dead, brought to “christendom” by “Pope Gregory” AD 735
- ♦ The clergy/laity divide becomes permanent

AD 400–1500: The Medieval Fusion

- Church = empire
- Priests = gatekeepers
- Ritual replaces relationship
- Latin replaces accessibility
- Structures replace spiritual life
- Attendance replaces transformation

AD 1500–1700: Reformation... but not Restoration

Luther, Zwingli, Calvin reformed theology—but kept the System structure:

- Clergy
- The Bible first became available, other than chained to a priest's pulpit
- Sunday “service” aka “mass” centrality
- Titled leadership
- Sermons
- Buildings
- Membership

AD 1700–present: The Modern Mega-System

- Stage lighting
- Sermon series
- “Sinner’s prayer” and altar calls begin
- Youth groups

- ◆ Worship concerts
- ◆ Celebrity pastors
- ◆ Children's Church
- ◆ Cradle Roll
- ◆ Parachurch organizations
- ◆ Bible studies by age or geography or demographic
- ◆ Wednesday Small Groups due to complaints of lack of relationship
- ◆ Discipleship and Mentor movements begin in the Charismatic wing
- ◆ Baptism as an optional outward “sign” rather than “Signature” on the Contract of Faith with Jesus
- ◆ Institutional budgets
- ◆ Church-as-Brand
- ◆ Programs → replace priesthood
- ◆ Attendance → replaces daily life together

Everything that looks “normal” today is 150–1800 years removed from Jesus.

Everything Jesus Designed has been preserved in Scripture but seldom put into practice as the actual Biblical definition of “Church,” Ekklesia.

The courageous ones are those who dare to be called names and still love those who hate them for “not playing the game right.”

The Ecosystem is never handed down in tradition. It’s born anew in each heart and soul, daily.

APPENDIX C

How to Form an Ecosystem Community: You Can't

*To the leaders and "pastors"
reading this...*

I was asked to address an international group of leaders, referred to as apostles, prophets, mega-pastors and such. Here is what I said to them, as an “outsider” of their normal circles: 4JLT.com/light

After I spoke, a line formed from the crowd, to ask me follow-up specific questions.

A husband and wife said,

“We are co-pastors and apostles to a chain of churches in our northeastern US state. We’ve been very successful as such things are normally defined. But what you said today is definitely from God and totally Biblical. We don’t have to ‘reimagine’ church anymore. It’s all in the Bible and lived out by Jesus. We see that clearly!”



Building
Principles



To I'ntl
Leaders

“But what do we DO? While standing in line, my husband and I spoke of how maybe we should shut down our ‘Sunday morning celebration’ and start building God’s way instead of man’s. What do you think? We are totally willing.”

My answer to them:

“While you could do that, I really, really don’t recommend it. That would strand a lot of good people in chaos and confusion. It’s far better to help children outgrow their children’s clothing, than to just strip it off them.

“INSTEAD, you could begin to facilitate the Priesthood of ALL believers and their gifts by being ‘ADDITIVE rather than subtractive.’ If you are at people’s homes and their children’s soccer games, and you’re letting others know to do the same, bringing ice cream cake to someone’s house, facilitating a gathering in a park on a Tuesday and planting the seeds in a number of folks to ‘consider how they might spur others on to love and good works,’ prepared to give a reason for the hope within them, then you’ll be shocked how people begin to grow in their Freedom to BE. Even others accidentally in the park will ‘SEE how you love one another’ and the ‘THIS is HOW’ of Jesus can finally come to fruition!

“You will not neeeeeed to ‘cancel Sunday’ because it will be just one more chance to be Together for a while...but put the seats in a circle. ‘Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, “Here are my mother and my brothers! Whoever does God’s will is my brother and sister and mother.”

“In time, when the time is God’s, the group of folks will transform whatever Sunday used to be—and it would be unthinkable to keep doing the rote clergy attendance thing. With so many other amazing Life opportunities organically through the week, unscheduled, those who WANT Jesus to be King over them and the Spirit to lead will explode with growth—and irritate the daylights of those who love the world and the things of the world. The leaven in the batch, the cold mixed into the hot (lukewarm) will either run for the hills or gradually be exposed and have the first real opportunity in the ECOSYSTEM to be Converted or Changed. The Gifts and Priesthood of all Believers will flourish and grow, and multiply in hearts and lives and families.”

And here's the cool part. Do you want to know how I know this? Because I have seen it happen firsthand for the last 40+ years. A bunch of us started out in the Sunday attendance-based system, but once we started living in the Ecosystem, LIFE pushed its way through the concrete of the religious-system. We didn't need to "cancel Sunday," nor did we need to treat it as a special day. No "ribbon cutting" or anniversary for "starting something new."

Even over forty years ago, when we knew nothing (some things never change!) we were still trying to figure out System versus Ecosystem Together. The System was all any of us had ever seen or heard of. So, here we Go—from within the steeple house paradigm. Even then, Sunday was just one more day of the week. How could it be different when you love Jesus, His Body the living church, and people ALL the time? Sitting in rows and files no longer made sense to us. We would never do that in our living rooms or kitchen or in a culdesac or park. He is our LIFE.

As one example of a thousand, many years ago, still WITHIN the System, we were sometimes climbing a motel swimming pool fence on Tuesday or Saturday, 2am, with the Security Guards' permission, until the motel finally gave us a key. (Plus, we crowded into their diner afterwards. So they liked that.) We weren't waiting for a "Baptism Sunday" for baptism, the Signature on the Covenant Contract. And, we weren't crazy about "religion-izing" the celebration by bringing it into the holy building sanctuary, just a mile or two away. We had the key to that too, of course.

2am is launch time, if it is! For those who had given all to Jesus, full surrender, forever, no take-backs, no one ever "waited." In the Story of Jesus and His apprentices and the early thousands, not once did anyone "wait" to put the Signature of immersion on the Contract of exchanging their sin for His righteousness. By faith, by abandonment, by denying our very selves, we die to self, are buried, and rise to walk in a New Life, Together. (Romans 6-8).

1. Start with Surrender, not Altering Structure

- ◆ Phase out programs, as people grow to walk in the Light
- ◆ Phase out schedules, as folks learn to be priests
- ◆ Immediately eliminate leadership titles. Jesus flat-out FORBIDS them.
- ◆ You will find you need no building, mortgage and upkeep. With no “schedule” you can find plenty of parks and large places to rent sporadically. In the meantime, EVERYONE will be “daily house to house” anyway!
- ◆ No constitution or nonsense bylaws.
- ◆ Give back your 501(c)(3) tax exempt status. We did. In 1987. The “designation” only forces you to squeeze into the “organization” mold instead of Organism. No salaries or titles or mortgages, no book or music sales, no love offering to a boss man, makes everything so much simpler. We don’t need any of that any more than Jesus did, as He lived with the Twelve and the 3000.
- ◆ No fake “church planter”
- ◆ No choreographed worship set (See MeetingsInHisKingdom.com) for a far more organic way to express music and teaching gifts than the celebrity “pay for play” nonsense borrowed from the pagans.

And of course... Start with repentance and fully yielding to Christ. Come what may. Jesus KNEW what He was doing when He invited us to shed religion and the System to have HIM instead. The LIFE of JESUS, rather than Theo (God) Ology (logic, study). What a difference.

2. Find Others Who Want Jesus, Not Religion, in whatever religious group you're around, or any coffee house or place you may meet people who want and need the real Jesus.

Look for, and BE, all this stuff:

- **humility**
- **conviction**
- **hunger**
- **willingness to change**
- **willingness to walk daily**
- **willingness to confess sin**
- **willingness to be corrected**

Not talent.

Not charisma.

Not ambition.

3. Live Hebrews 3:12–14. It will become so rewarding and life-giving that it will be your natural way to live Life. It's Jesus. HE said so.

Forget having “meetings.” Just be Christ-centered and with the best people you can find, as often as you can. You don’t have to talk down to anyone or about anyone, or blow anything up. God isn’t looking for barefoot prophets. He’s looking for those who will wash the feet, “*while they are yet sinners*” like you and I are. Get with folks, and find out about their lives over meals, in homes, yeah maybe in religious buildings some, on walks and runs, parks, children’s team games, and trips. And let them voluntarily into your life. Of course, you’ll SEE about nothing but jargon unless you are with them “*as you rise up and sit down and walk along the way.*”

Daily means kind of daily-ish, because it will change faces according to circumstances and availability. Avoid cliques! Let me say it again, and you can pretend I said it 10 times more right here: Avoid cliques. If it is predictable, it is ultimately going to damage you and everyone around you.

Be willing to graciously invade space and give away space, without weirdness or policing or dripping.

When making this change towards ecosystem, whether it's a "Bible study" or "congregation" or "parish"—a good philosophy is... Be additive not subtractive! Get involved in each others' lives way off-schedule in addition to whatever your organized thingy might be.

Go places, do things, engage in life and make Jesus central in every little thing with each other. Notice life or lack of life. Talk about it together. No policing but also no spiritually brain dead world-seeking, fun-seeking nonsense. Not little cliques, but everybody, or some unassigned ever-changing subsets of everybody. Talk about your spiritual life and what you are learning. Let Jesus cease to be a topic on a schedule, but rather "live and move and have your being" in Him. Be vulnerable not teachy or weird.

Let the previous so-called clergy become just a brother or sister in the middle of a family. Maybe with extra gifts, maybe not, but that's not even relevant. As Jesus said, nobody is special, "you are all just brothers," Matthew 23.

Just let Jesus be center of all of the "extra" times you are also together, and much of the other system stuff will melt into an ecosystem. And "when revelation comes to the second one, let the first sit down!" will become a way of life every day. And, in fact, "Bible studies" and "services" will no longer exist in your mind. You'll never think of anything again as "going to church" or "something to attend." You will have outgrown that concept.

Live life. Jesus centered. None of us have it altogether, but all together we have it all. You will discover some amazing things about each other and about Jesus. People will come to crossroads in their lives that they didn't know they needed to come to. Not everything will turn out great, but amazing things will happen for those who really do want Jesus with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. We all will be set free to discover gifts and horizons we were previously unaware of in ourselves and others.

As Jesus said, “100 mothers, brothers, sisters, lands, possessions, and Zoe life.” Ecosystem Life, Together. For “whosoever will.” “This is My church that the gates of hell can no longer prevail against.” Who has Oil? You’ll find out.

You won’t be able to turn a system into an ecosystem, because you will lose the majority of your friends when you start living for Jesus this way. Many will hate it because they hate the light. Still, you are doing what you need to do and finding out who is real or wants to be. That is powerful! Take your time. And again, God could do a Jonah-Ninevah thing and from the King down everyone will grab ahold of Jesus’ cloak.

The motto: 80 miles deep and 5 miles wide is... 2.5 million times better than... 1 inch deep, 40 miles wide.

To the younger generation reading this...

We have already said, “Don’t be an activist! Don’t be a swashbuckling pirate waving your sword around!”

Since many of you reading or hearing this are in your teens and 20s and early 30s, this is probably essential to say:

- **There is such a thing as authority and respect for authority, respect for age, respect for experience.**
- **Be certain you show respect to those who, as Paul said, “were in Christ before you were.”**
- **Take your time in all of this, and work together carefully and respectfully, with those who “were in Christ before you were.”**
- **Grow together, not apart!**
- **The plaque on the mantle of my fireplace for many years now: “None of us have it all together, but altogether we have it all.” And I mean it.**
- **Let your grace and humility be evident to all.**



Organic
Leadership

But also, as Paul charged Timothy, “Don’t let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” 1 Timothy 4:12

And do not let anyone steal your hope to see “on earth, as it is in Heaven.” You will likely come across those—as we did—who say, “Oh, the idealism of youth. In a few years, you’ll calm down as you realize all your high aspirations of what the church could and should be are just not possible this side of heaven.” You cannot tolerate such thieves who want to rob you of the inheritance of the riches of Christ and His Kingdom. Just ignore them, respectfully :).

APPENDIX D

Myths All of Us Must Unlearn

Myth #1: “Church is a building.”

No building appears in the NT.

Myth #2: “You need clergy to grow spiritually.”

Jesus forbade titles, and clergy, but Gifts are organic and very helpful. They make no claims, and demand nothing, and do not exercise authority as the gentiles do.

Myth #3: “Sunday morning is the most important part of the Christian week.”

Zero verses say or imply anything like this. Several verses blow this idea up as totally unlike Jesus or His Word and Plan.

Myth #4: “Small groups are basically what the early church did.”

Not remotely.

They lived together daily.

Myth #5: “Programs make disciples.”

Life makes disciples.

Myth #6: “You can follow Jesus without daily relationships.”

Impossible. See Hebrews 3:12–14.

Myth #7: “Youth groups keep teens Christian.”

Statistics say the opposite. Segregating by age is a fool’s errand.

Myth #8: “You can love God and love the world.”

1 John 2:15 and literally 100 other verses say, “No.”

Myth #9: “Adopting the world’s ways and tactics with the world’s music, clothing, dancing, and fads is the way to keep teens safe.”

See the answer to Myth #8... That is dangerous ground to tread on.

Even at “best” that is feeding babes in Christ a cotton-candy life that is unsustainable. A flesh-driven system is no better than a rules-driven system.

It is only His Ecosystem that unleashes the driving force of the Power of an Indestructible Life. And that Ecosystem is walking together in the light, in vulnerability and courage to lay bare the motives of the heart in ourselves and one another.

APPENDIX E

Frequently Asked Questions

Q1: “Is the Ecosystem anti-church?”

No. It is church-as-Jesus-defined-it.

It is anti-System, not anti-Body-of-Christ.

Q2: “Does this mean abandoning all Christians in buildings?”

No.

It means calling them into daily Life.

Some will come. Some will not.

Q3: “Is this safe?”

No.

Neither was Jesus.

Q4: “Where does teaching happen?”

Everywhere, all the time.

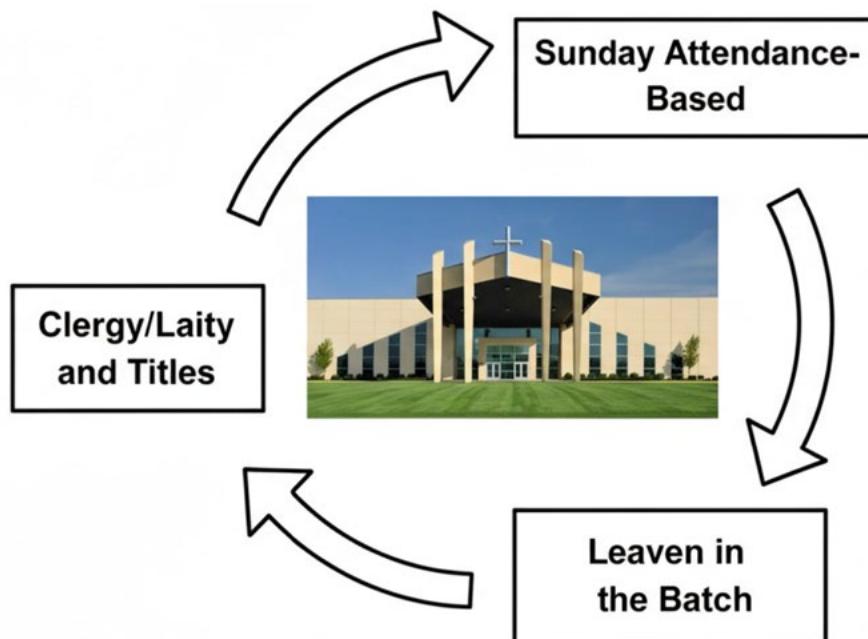
Q5: “Who leads an Ecosystem of Life, a Church as Jesus Designed it (painful as it can be)?”



[See the Video](#)

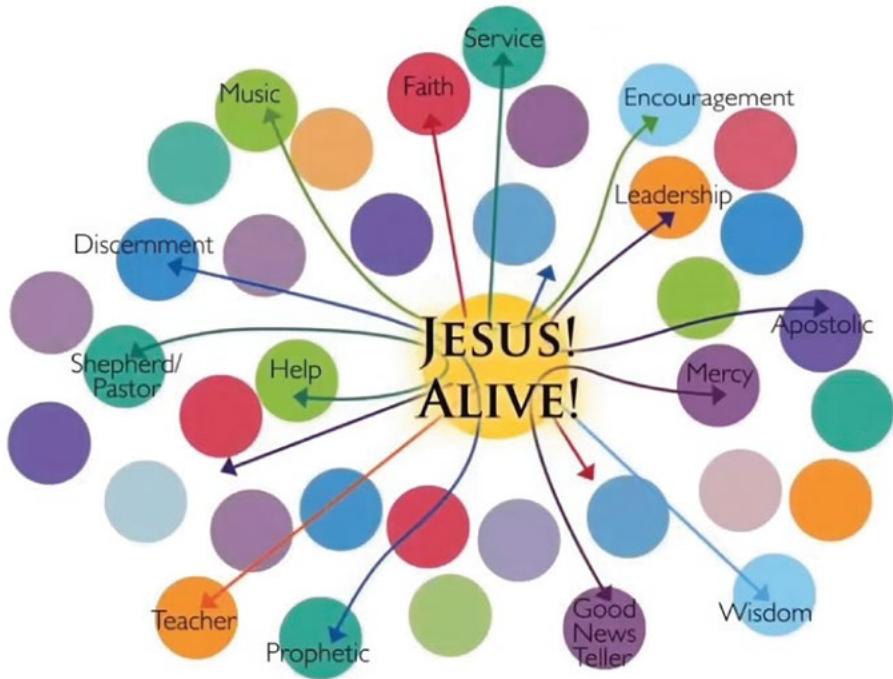
The Spirit, expressed through many gifts—not one man.

The unvirtuous cycle...



Automatic leader





Q6: “What about children?”

They grow up in the Life, not age-segregated programs.

Q7: “I don’t know if I have what it takes to break past the system.”

Do you love the light? Do you want to change to be more like Jesus in every way you can? That is exactly “what it takes.” That’s the priesthood. That’s the future that Jesus is building.

Q8: “What if someone refuses to turn away from a life of sin or love of the world?”

Matthew 18, 1 Corinthians 5, 2 Corinthians 2, 2 Corinthians 7, Titus 3:10, etc.

Lovingly, firmly, consistently take the necessary action to break relationship with them, if you really care about their soul, and souls of everyone else who will be leavened by their being undealt with, including our children.

As one young man said, “If THAT kind of sin, greed, pride, emptiness is allowed here unchecked, then I’m going to have to leave, because clearly Jesus’ teaching is ‘optional’ here.” (It was already graciously and patiently being fully dealt with, but the young person was unaware of this, because they were being covered.)



**Revolution
Dancing**

“The Field is the World,” Jesus said. That’s where the wheat and the weeds grow together to wait for the Harvest Day. The Field is NOT the church.

“Get the Leaven out of the batch, or everyone will be leavened,” said Jesus. But that is impossible in a System of attendance on Sunday. Weakness, misunderstanding, and leaven all look the same on Sunday. And the distinctions are invisible and impossible to resolve in loving, wise, careful, redemptive ways without ECOSYSTEM RELATIONSHIP. Remember how the man in Corinth was disfellowshipped, and it almost killed him to not be allowed to eat any longer in the Ecosystem he had been privileged to participate in previously? In today’s attendance System, no one would care!

Q9: “Is this just idealistic? How should we view what we’ve been doing all of these years?”

Life Together, without ritual, has been lived in reality—for nearly a half century, and that’s just who we know of, closely. In multiple nations, quietly and effectively, good people have dared to be deeply for Jesus, while not much for religion, the System.

But, it won’t be easy or fun. Lowkey, it’s not always gonna slap. The World System, and the Religious System, are still in cahoots, as they were in Jesus’ day. And they hate the real Jesus showing up. So, buckle your seatbelt.

Q10: “Is this just a different way to meet together?”

As I said several times (since 1985), this is NOT about “how to have meetings” or something nearly as external as all of that. The fundamental issue is: “HOW TO APPROACH GOD” Who is not approachable through the five senses, good deeds, proper doctrines or techniques or wording, hard work, or any such thing.

While certainly some fine things can be done “for Jesus,” really most stuff misses the ROOT issue of the REAL difference between those two Trees in the Garden—by ten thousand miles.

I’m not saying this to be offensive, but just to say the MAGNITUDE of the difference between “REFORMED” denominational religion, with new and improved doctrines, techniques, folkways and mores—and the ZOE LIFE that Jesus brought from another dimension (called in the Bible “heavenly realms”—where time and space and mass and Newtonian laws don’t exist as we know them), and gave to US this difference affects EVERYTHING in life, including “meetings”!

It is NOT about being a little more relaxed and flexible in having our planned or unplanned meetings, and labeling that to be “led by the Spirit” (because we don’t know in advance what we’re going to do). It is NOTHING like that, although could seem similar if viewed from an earthly perspective.

Again, I refer you to 1 Corinthians 2ff to make the distinction between “mere men” and living out of the very Mind and Spirit of the Godhead, and using a different means of understanding than the five senses that the “rulers of this age” must use, no matter how adept. Zoe is “foolishness to

them, they are INCAPABLE of understanding.” So, I say again. This is NOT about “meeting” style preference, called or uncalled.

Often, when men have something to lose (esteem, money, worldly convenience, etc.) these truths are met with GREAT resistance and heated repudiation. What a shame to refuse to talk and pray about the stuff that will REALLY lead one into the Eternal Realm to sit with Christ and be enveloped by Him (rather than external stuff “for” Him)—the ESSENCE of the New Covenant!

Of course, the Reality of Christ’s Realm, the place where angels see the Face of God, cannot be defined by earthly wisdom and parameters and borrowed paradigms: “What’s so WRONG with ____? How could THAT be bad? That’s a GOOD thing!” etc.)....

Unfortunately, many will need to go on in “their way” until they see it’s STILL not going anywhere, after all these years. And with the loss of many of their children to the world.

Is this issue of what ZOE is, the very heart and soul of what Jesus brought to earth, the New Covenant, “the Mystery revealed” something we can just smile at and put aside? Not anymore than the virgin birth.

Q11: “Is this whole issue essential to getting close to God?”

UNWAVERINGLY, NON-NEGOTIABLY YES, A THOUSAND TIMES,
YES!!!!!!!

Here’s why, from the Master of the Universe:

“In HIM was Zoe, and that Zoe was the light of men.”

“Jesus said to her, ‘I Am the resurrection, and the Zoe.’”

“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, the Zoe.’”

“The Zoe was manifested, and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal Zoe.”

“If Christ is in you, though the body dead because of sin, yet the spirit is Zoe because of righteousness.”

“You search the scriptures, for you think that in them you have life

eternal, and they it is which bear witness concerning me; and you will not come to me that you might have ZOE!"

"Work not for the food which perishes, but for the food which abides unto ZOE eternal, which the Son of man shall give to you; for him has the Father sealed, even God."

"For the bread of God is He who comes down out of heaven and gives ZOE to the world. They said therefore to him, 'Lord, ever give to us this bread.' And Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of ZOE: he that comes to Me shall never hunger, and he that believes on Me shall never thirst at any time. But I have said to you, that ye have also seen me and do not believe.'"

"For this is the will of my Father, that every one who sees the Son, and believes on him, should have ZOE!"

"Again therefore Jesus spoke to them, saying, 'I am the light of the world; he that follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of ZOE.'"

"I give them ZOE eternal; and they shall never perish, and no one shall seize them out of my hand."

"And this is the eternal ZOE, that they should [now] know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent."

"But an angel of the Lord during the night opened the doors of the prison, and leading them out, said, 'Go ye and stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this ZOE!'"

If someone without a real experience of Zoe to any measure is commanding you to tell him that it doesn't exist, you can't just say, "Okay then. Your way is as good as Zoe." It is just too fundamental to the purpose of New Covenant Testimony of Christ, and "tasting the Powers of the Coming Age" and participating in "the power of an indestructible Life" and to "making known the manifold Wisdom of God to the Principalities and Powers, NOW, through the CHURCH".... to lay aside as an optional extra.

I'll add here that there are a LOT of folks, some we know extremely well, who live still from their minds and good intentions and man's manners and knowledge and experiences. It's just a fruitless bummer to do that, and so we'll keep working on it.

As we talked about in part 1 of this book (be sure to get ahold of that if you haven't read it), being an activist and carrying ourselves as hotshot "know-it-alls," blabbering every time something pops into our head, is a bad idea. Don't do that. Truth too early, or too late... is no longer Truth.

So, be kind, generous, patient, forgiving, loving. We need His redemption, too. That's not a small thing. Don't lose sight of the Blood of Jesus by focusing too much too soon on the OUTCOME of the Blood and Spirit of Christ, if both are present in the lives of people you meet, and in yourself.

But never ever EVER allow anyone to blackmail, bully, or intimidate you into being just like them. "Press on to the High Calling," anyway.

It's NOT a good idea (to make the HUGE distinction!!!) to tell people who Experience Zoe Life to "accept the fact that there is no such thing," and "their way is just as good because they do good deeds and they have ideas and home meetings and other good stuff." We've got to learn of the true CHRIST and not resent and "slander things they don't understand."

Christianity is not a practiced endeavor, based on a set of rules that we can attain to through knowledge and effort and sincerity. "I praise You Father" for that! :) It is supernatural. We can't go back to ways of the world, or declare the system to be valid or fruitful or Real or fulfilling.

ZOE communion with God—unfettered by systems, programs, planned and canned religion, hierarchy (Saul, rather than Samuel), counterfeits of "home" or "innovative" techniques and cutesy stuff—is essential.

True ZOE Life with God and one another is as essential to the future as the virgin birth and atoning death in some respects, because it is the only hope of the LIFE of the New Covenant. It is the only hope for turning people into men and women "of GOD"—rather than mice on the wheel of religious life (at home or in "buildings"). There is such a difference between "mere men" with their ambitions for having a "ministry" and a truckload of borrowed ideas... and with those living in the womb of the GodHead (though still human).

May God have the real thing in abundance, to the praise of His Glory.

APPENDIX F

Ambassadors of the King and His Kingdom— Get to Living!

FROM GENESIS TO REVELATION, God's people are representatives of His reign—a kingdom of priests whose lives, prayers, and witness bring the knowledge of God to the world. Spectators attending a ceremony is the opposite of God's Intention.

Idealistic? It IS God's Plan, His Design. This Ecosystem of Daily Priests is not negotiable. The phrase “a kingdom of priests” first appears in the Old Testament when God establishes His covenant with Israel at Mount Sinai. In Exodus 19:5-6, the Lord tells Moses to speak to the people: “Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be My treasured possession among all peoples, for all the earth is Mine; and you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” This passage captures God's original design for God's People, all of them—to be a nation set apart, mediating His presence and truth to the world, and even “judging the Angels.” The same idea in Isaiah 61:6, “But you shall be called the priests of the Lord; they shall speak of you as the servants of our God.”

To all who believe in Christ, 1 Peter 2:5 and 9 proclaims, “You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for His own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.” Similarly, the book of Revelation 1:5-6 praises Jesus Christ “who loves us and has freed us from our sins by His blood and made us a kingdom, priests to His God and Father.” The same theme recurs in Revelation 5:9-10, where the redeemed sing, “You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to serve our God, and they will reign on the earth.”

So, is there value in sitting in a pew on a Sunday? Sure, in some ways. It’s nearly always better than being a lone ranger and disengaged from all other believers. If you want to really destroy a convict in prison, put them in solitary confinement. Over 40% of secluded and isolated students or prisoners, in a McGill University study and others, show signs of hallucinations, perception distortions, and cognitive breakdown, in as little as 48-72 hours. Not being with others, spiritually or physically, is a really big deal. We are not Designed for isolation. Don’t be proud.

Idealistic? Well, you’ll never EVER fulfill your ultimate Potential in the “System and Program and Clergy” unbiblical System. But often it will keep the good-hearted and hungry folks safe. “Attending” and “going to church” (yikes, to even say that is painful) is at least preservative or formaldehyde for the good ones. But, the “attendance” System is a total deception of “I’m okay” to the religious lost. It’s not helping anyone and not “merciful” to ignore such things.

Life is Built, not found. No marketing, no striving, no recruiting. Recruiting to WHAT? Just to Jesus, if you’re Seeing it right. So get out there and do the work, and be enCouraged because there are many people out there who want His Ecosystem. When God told Paul, “I have many people in this city,” He didn’t give Paul their email addresses and phone numbers. God said, “Quit fussing and just do the Work. I will Build as I build.” Our websites and those contacting us total millions per year in 200 countries. Some places we’ve had direct interaction with, visits or the like, through some means or another are:



Preservation

- ◆ **Saudi Arabia**
- ◆ **Dubai**
- ◆ **China**
- ◆ **Colombia**
- ◆ **Brazil**
- ◆ **Malawi**
- ◆ **South Africa**
- ◆ **Germany**
- ◆ **Poland**
- ◆ **Romania**
- ◆ **Russia**
- ◆ **Kenya**
- ◆ **Philippines**
- ◆ **Australia**
- ◆ **And across the U.S. and Europe**

The hungry, the curious atheist or agnostic, the bored, the sincere who are troubled by hypocrisy, those seeking Jesus who don't even know what they are looking for—all are evidence of “the God-shaped still-vacuum in their heart.” Seekers, as all humans are, of life that is truly Life... grew up in country codes and postal codes of Islam, Bahai, Mormonism, Jehovah’s Witness, Baptist, Presbyterian, Catholic, Anglican, Buddhist, Hindu, Zoroastrian, but want and need the “why” they are here. The frustrated, the disillusioned, the courageous, the genius and the scholar, wealthy and “successful,” the poor of heart and pocket, the families and marriages and workplace folks really want and need life that is truly Life. God Designed His Ecosystem where His Son Rules, and Breathes into those who accept His DNA, Life that is truly Life. And especially for Gen Z—Gen Zoe.

For those committed to what they are already doing, without question or pause, remaining certain of that which is never in the Bible, okay. Do that. God bless and protect you. But, please stay open. There's a lot at stake, and a lot of dirty dog water under the bridge. Think and watch and pray, going forward?

Important

Another ingenious benefit that God has baked into the Ecosystem:

a Family of true believers, whether 20 or 20,000, is very difficult for governments and evil people to attack and persecute, compared to an attendance-based, holy-day clergy system. The Christian persecution watch list in 2025 includes North Korea, Somalia, Libya, Yemen, Eritrea, Sudan, Nigeria, Pakistan, India, China, Iran, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, Nicaragua, Cuba, Russia, Myanmar (Burma), and Vietnam. Of course it's still very possible to persecute a courageous non-compliant follower of Jesus. But, an Ecosystem of daily life, loving our neighbors as ourselves, is a very different target for governments and haters in non-Jesus religions—than clergy, laity, and religious temple worship.

Final Blessing

The World Is Waiting

MAY THE KING who walked among fishermen
walk now among you.

May the Spirit who filled the upper room
fill your kitchen, your dorm, your workplace.

May the Presence that shook empires
shake your home and your city.

May you become radioactive with His Life,
glowing with Zoe,
uncontainable,
undeniable,
unmistakably marked by Heaven.

May you burn your maps,
help the System turn to the Man who walked on water,
rather than the comfort zone of attendance and clergy,
and walk into the wild of the Kingdom.

May you live the only life worth living—
 the Life He designed,
 the Life He purchased,
 the Life He promised,
 the Life that never dies.

Go there.

The world is waiting for the priests of the Living God.

The Ecosystem is calling.

The door is open.

Lock in—full send!

***“All creation groans until the sons of God are manifest,
 finally showing themselves for who they are meant to be.”***

—Romans 8:19

***“Above ALL, you must live as citizens of heaven, conducting
 yourselves in a manner worthy of the Good News about Christ.
 Then, whether I come and see you again or only hear about you,
 I will know that you are standing TOGETHER with one spirit
 and one purpose, fighting TOGETHER for the faith, which is the
 Good News. Don’t be intimidated in any way.”***

—Philippians 1:27-28

About

The Author

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I've generally left my name off books and all that jazz, since self-promotion and selling things about Jesus and His Plan are wrong. "Life" makes a lot of people mad, and as with Jesus, it brings the "liars and looters" out of the woodwork. So people might as well know who to be mad at. For those who catch God's Intent and Vision... just RUN with it. I don't matter. Humans and human opinion are nothing. Only the kindness and forgiveness of God matter. "Only God is good." This book is about that.

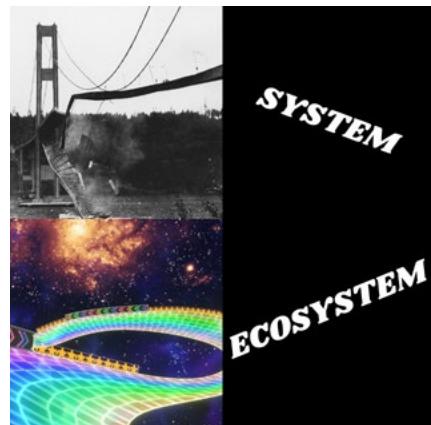
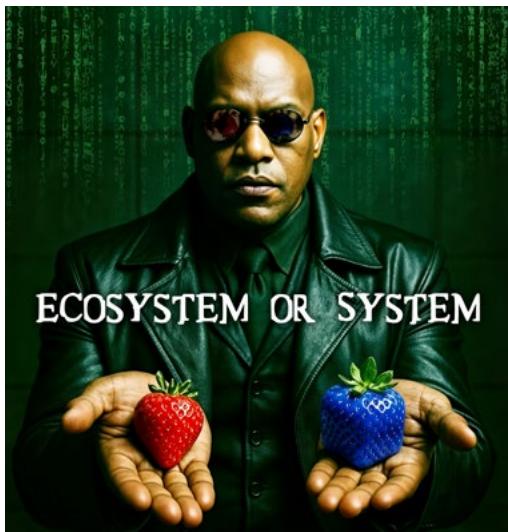




SYSTEM



ECOSYSTEM



Vol. 2 of 2

Jesus the Designer's Plan
to Change the World

The System or The Ecosystem

by Michael H Peters



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