**RISE UP** in 2021

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**What’s Your Why?**

**Is my story worth telling?**

John 9, Romans 10:2-17



**Whole People** – What do I do with this hole in my life?

Everyone has a **hole** that keeps them from being **whole**.

**Whole Gospel** – Does God really care about me?

When you find your **life** in Jesus, you can **trust** Jesus with the **life** you have found.

**Whole World** – Is my story worth telling?

Have you ever told someone that you follow Jesus?

Have you ever told someone that Jesus is your Lord and Savior?

Is my **story** worth telling?

What difference does following Jesus make in your life?

**Christian Atheism** – believing in God and yet living as if He does not exist.

This is the “So what?” question we all have to ask. So you believe in God or Jesus, **“So what?”**

You have to **answer** “So **what**?” to **share** “What’s so!”

This is **God’s** Story.

My life has purpose and meaning when built on the foundation of God’s story.

*The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold,* ***the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world****!* John 1:29

The lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world ... the one who comes to seek and save the lost ... the one who defeats our enemy, Satan, sin, death and the grave.

*“For* ***God so loved the world****, that* ***he gave*** *his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God* ***did not send his Son into the world to condemn*** *the world, but in order that* ***the world might be saved through him****.* John 3:16–17

*God’s story shapes us. We do not write ourselves into God’s storyline, rather God writes us into His story. In this sense, God’s story is an ongoing story – and we are a part of it!*

My life makes **sense** when viewed through God’s story.

*He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though* ***I was blind, now I see****.”* John 9:25

**We all have a story worth telling … what is yours?**

Without Jesus, I would be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

Once I was \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_! But now I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!

Closed, Open

Lost, Found

Purposeless, Life of Meaning

Addicted, Set Free

Lived a Lie, Live in the light

Spiritually Sick, Eternally Well

Broken, Whole

Lonely, Never alone

Anxious, Peaceful

Angry, Joyful

Unlovable, Unconditionally Loved

Searching, Found a family

Homeless, At home

Friendless, Family

Poor, Rich in love

Greedy, Generous

Lustful, Pure in Christ

Prideful, Living in humility

Arrogant, Surrendered

Legalistic, Living in Grace

Judgmental, Compassionate

Perfectionistic, Accepting my imperfection

Can God really love someone like me? Yes! He is not impressed with our self-righteous, our goodness … now Jesus, yes. It is His righteous that we get and now we can learn to live into that righteousness.

*“****Know the story you profess to be participating in.*** *Know it well and tell it with enthusiasm. Tell it like other stories that excite and compel you. … When you first learn to tell the story, get the shape right. Then fill in the details.”*  Charlie Peacock, *New Way to Be Human*

My life becomes an **invitation** to the story.

When your life is good news it is worth sharing.

Our job is about **storytelling**.

*And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.* ***Go therefore and make disciples of all nations****, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”* Matthew 28:18–20

*But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in* ***Jerusalem*** *and in all* ***Judea*** *and* ***Samaria****, and to the* ***end of the earth****.”* Acts 1:8

Why don’t we share the story ... and our story?

**Fear of** … rejection, ridicule, anger, and embarrassment

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and him crucified. And **I was with you in weakness and in fear and much trembling**, and my speech and my message were not in plausible words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that **your faith might not rest in the wisdom of men but in the power of God**. 1 Corinthians 2:2–5

**Our Spiritual Vision is Impaired**  - We do not see what God sees.

*For now* ***we see in a mirror dimly****, but then face to face. Now* ***I know in part****; then I shall know fully, even as I have been fully known.* 1 Corinthians 13:12

*How then will they* ***call*** *on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to* ***believe*** *in him of whom they have never* ***heard****? And how are they to hear without someone* ***preaching****? And how are they to preach unless they are* ***sent****? As it is written, “****How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news****!”* Romans 10:14–15

You are **sent** ...

*And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “****Here I am! Send me****.”* Isaiah 6:8

So you can share **your** story ...

*But God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—****by grace you have been saved*** *…* Ephesians 2:4–5

*For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing;* ***it is the gift of God****, not a result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are his workmanship,* ***created in Christ Jesus for good works****, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.* Ephesians 2:8–10

So they can hear about **God’s** story ...

*But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “Lord, who has believed what he has heard from us?” So* ***faith comes from hearing****, and* ***hearing through the word of Christ****.* Romans 10:16–17

And call upon the name of **Jesus!**

*because,* ***if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead****,* ***you will be saved****.* Romans 10:9

*For with the heart one* ***believes*** *and is* ***justified****, and with the mouth one* ***confesses*** *and is* ***saved****.* Romans 10:10

*For the Scripture says, “Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; for the same Lord is Lord of all, bestowing his riches on all who call on him. For “****everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved****.”* Romans 10:11–13

Do you have a friend, a neighbor, a child, a co-worker that needs to see, hear, believe and call upon the name of Jesus … you are sent with a message that has changed your life, and can change their lives and even change the world!

We are becoming a Whole People, taking a Whole Gospel, to the Whole World!

Why? Because it is what we were born and then born again to do … the story, our story of God’s great love!

It is our why, our mission, our purpose in life … to use all that we have for the glory of our Lord, for the sake of the Gospel and the Kingdom of God.