

# Campus Connect

Volume VIII - Issue X - Oct 2025



PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

**M**any people dream, but few achieve their dreams. History shows that behind every person who did great things was a clear and strong purpose. Nehemiah's life is one such story. He was a cupbearer to the king, thousands of miles from his home, yet he rebuilt the destroyed walls of Jerusalem in just 52 days. How was this possible without modern machines? He did this amazing thing because of his determination, faith, and a specific purpose. The only answer is a purposeful life.

Rick Warren, an American pastor and writer, says in his famous book, *The Purpose Driven Life*: "Until you know your purpose, life will be meaningless. Life only gains true importance when you start living for God's purpose."

Do we have such a purpose in our lives? A "purposeful life" is not just having goals; it is finding and living in the divine plan that our Creator intended for us. In Jeremiah 29:11, the Lord says: 'For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.' This promise means every believer has a divine purpose. It means every part of our life and every moment should be used for His glory and His kingdom.

What is a purposeful life? It needs clarity and focus. Nehemiah did not look away from the broken walls or give in to threats from his enemies, Sanballat and Tobiah. He knew his purpose clearly. We must also have such clarity about the work God has given us. We must stay alert so the many distractions, habits, and worries of the world do not turn our attention away. This requires strong faith, patience, and constant action. Living according to God's will may seem hard, but it is the only way to find true fulfillment and lasting joy.

A purposeful life not only gives us direction but also strength and patience. When we face difficulties and challenges, our purpose pushes us forward. It fills the empty gaps in life. It tells us we were created not just to live on earth but for a higher purpose. Every task we do for the Lord, big or small, builds His kingdom and brings glory to His name. Like Nehemiah, we are called to bring change to our community, family, and personal life. This gives our soul satisfaction and our heart fulfillment.

So, how can we find this divine purpose? Through prayer, studying the Bible, and spending time with God. When we seek His will, He will show us His purpose. As Paul said in Philippians 4:13: "I can do all this through him who gives me strength." Yes, our purpose is fulfilled not by our own power but by what Christ does through us. Our talents, opportunities, and surroundings - everything is used to fulfill God's purpose. He shows us the clear path and gives us the ability we need.

Our life is a journey. Let's move forward with the anchor of a divine purpose, not like a ship without a destination. Nehemiah not only built walls but also restored hope and faith to a generation. Likewise, through our purposeful lives, let us inspire many and declare God's glory. Our existence in this world should be a witness to God's purpose. We exist for Him, and we must live for His glory. Amen.

**- K. John Bhushanam**

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## REQUEST

Dear Vidyarthi Velugu and Campus Connect readers,  
Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We would like you to note the following:

1. For address change, non-receipt of magazine, new subscription, or renewal, please contact the office staff, Brother D. Sai Kumar (79933 97630).
2. Pray and encourage so that Vidyarthi Velugu has no postal issues and everyone reads and receives spiritual benefit.

Each month, send only two important praise and two prayer points of EU and EGF through the V V Prayer Points link by the 10th. Those interested in writing may send their essays, stories, and poems to [editorvv2018@gmail.com](mailto:editorvv2018@gmail.com).

**- Editorial Board**



## PURPOSE DRIVEN LIFE

**A**t some point, we've all asked, "Who am I?"

In this world, searching for the right answer to this is like looking for a drop of water in the sand. People you ask will only answer based on their own experiences, opinions, and knowledge. This answer won't give your soul lasting peace.

Anyone you ask about yourself will either confuse, mislead, or disappoint you.

**Ask Technology:** If you ask technology - modern tech, the internet, AI

- "Who am I?", it will give various answers based on your data and interests, ultimately confusing you more. It cares more about what you do online than who you are, reducing your identity to clicks, likes, and shares.

**Ask People:** If you ask people, "What is my worth?", they will combine their own bitter experiences and disappointments to describe a value you "can never achieve" or "experience," misleading you. If they praise you, it only lasts until

their needs are met. If you fail to meet their expectations, your value instantly drops. Human recognition is like mist that floats away - it's not permanent.

**Ask Science:** If you try to ask science, "What will my future be like?", it will say, "More research is needed," or "More experiments are needed," which disappoints you. Science can tell you current facts and possibilities but not the ultimate goal of your existence or your life's true meaning.

### **The Real Answer is Only in God**

Only God can give the real definition and meaning to our lives. The Bible is the only book that speaks about who we are, our purpose, and our worth. This is because the Bible is a love letter written by our Creator. Only He knows why He created us.

You are very valuable. This is what the Bible says about you:

- \* **You are made by God:** You were not born by chance or accident. God designed and created you with a purpose. (Psalm 139:13-16).
- \* **You are saved:** To prove your value and forgive your sins,

you were saved by the blood of the cross. God did not give His Son's life for any object or person in this world—only for you. What value could be greater?

- \* **You are chosen and called:** God chose you for a special task before the world was made (Ephesians 1:4).
- \* **You are guided:** You are not alone. You are guided by God's Spirit, the Holy Spirit.
- \* **Your future is secure:** When your journey on earth ends, you will go to be with God for all eternity.

### **He is Your Address and Identity**

God is the one who gives you your real address and identity. He is your foundation, shelter, safety, joy, pleasure, passion, and blessing. He is the navigator of your life. He is the love that strengthens you. God has many good thoughts for you. "Many, O Lord my God, are your wonderful deeds that you have done, and your thoughts toward us; none can compare with you!" (Psalm 40 :5).



You should see yourself as God sees you—as very valuable in Jesus Christ. See your future in Jesus Christ.

## Great News

Heaven loves you. Regardless of your struggle, your flaws, or your past, you are seen as very valuable because of Christ. You are His possession. The thought, “I am lonely... I may not be able to fully complete my life...” is a dangerous illusion. In God’s eyes, your life is not over yet. A great plan awaits you. When you find your purpose, loneliness will go away. The last chapter of your life has not been written yet.

## Understand God’s Plan

How should you see yourself? You should see yourself as God sees you - as very valuable in Jesus Christ. See your future in Jesus Christ. Don’t look for your future in this world’s temporary successes or securities.

### A) The Danger to Avoid

God created us in His image. His goal is for you to be changed into the image of His Son, Christ. But what do we do? We want to become like someone else or seek approval from others. The effort you put into making your shape

and appearance look great and attractive to others is a dangerous path. It goes against God’s plan. God created you for His glory, so think about the loss if you desire your own glory or someone else’s honor! The ultimate goal of your life is God’s glory. If you live for Him, your life will also be full of glory.

### B) The Mistake in Love

Jesus loved you so much that He died to save you. Notice the mistake in loving other things (money, objects, status) or other people, or wanting others to love you.

### C) The Path to Disappointment

Many have been disappointed by trying to experience life on a path other than with God. It is God’s will that you do not go down that path.

### D) True Success

There is nothing wrong with wanting success. But be careful that this desire does not turn into greed and cause you deep sorrow. God wants you to succeed. However, there is a big difference between the success He wants and the success the world talks about:

- \* **The world's success** - money, status, power.
- \* **Christ's success** - victory over sin, victory over Satan, eternal life.

Don't be upset if you haven't succeeded. Do your best, and leave the result to God. Don't be disappointed by the pain you feel when others succeed, but believe that Christ is victorious and will turn your life into a victorious life.

### **Walk with God**

Do you know why stress comes into your life? You were created to live in harmony and a good relationship with your God. When you are not in harmony with Him, your soul feels stressed and restless. What should you do to walk with God? Truly dedicate yourself to God. Pray often. Since His Word (the Bible) loves you, feed on it daily. Trust that everything God has given you is good, and praise Him. Do not compare yourself to others and think you are less than they are. Understand and enjoy every situation instead of making angry decisions. If you believe God, you must believe everything He has said about Himself and

your life. If you don't believe, it will increase disappointment and fear in your life. If you don't believe that Jesus is the only true hope for your life, there will be no hope for your current life (fear, stress) or your future eternal life (salvation). A good start to your life begins at the cross. Give yourself to the hands of God, who can shape your life beautifully.

### **Conclusion**

When you understand the true identity God gives you as His child, great changes will come into your life. You will stop longing for relationships, approval, and success. You will stop caring what others think of you. You will not seek approval from people. You will be grateful to God for your life. You will deeply appreciate God's love. You will start loving yourself. You did not come to this earth by chance; you are God's purpose. In God's eyes, your existence is a miracle. Keep this truth in your heart and build your life around that purpose.

### **Reference**

1. Identity Theft: Mike Brooks  
- **Ravi Kumar**, Staff, Hyderabad

# Transformation in Discipleship

**W**hen we see a butterfly, it looks very beautiful. However, before it had that shape, it was just a caterpillar. That caterpillar isn't very attractive. It only becomes lovely *after* it changes.

Similarly, when people are in their sinful nature, they are all enemies of God and far from Him. But Jesus Christ is inviting all people to be changed into His image.

When we put faith in Jesus Christ and are willing to come and be His followers, He starts this transformation process. This change doesn't happen in one day. It's an ongoing process.

As we look closely at Jesus Christ's life, walk with Him, and obey His words, we are changed into His image.

The final goal for every believer in this world is to be changed into the image of Christ.

## **Peter's Transformation**

One of the disciples, Peter, when called by Jesus, was a simple fisherman, an illiterate, given to emotional outbursts. But as Peter was following Jesus through life situations, through dialogues, and through teachings, he became a chief

disciple, an apostle, and a vibrant miracle worker. In a way, he was transformed from a fisherman to fishers of men in the following areas:

### **1. From Timid to Bold**

Peter once asserted to Jesus that everyone would desert Jesus, but he would not desert him. But when the actual hour came, 'Peter followed him at a distance' (Matthew 26:58). Peter was very timid and chose to follow Jesus 'at a safe distance'. He didn't want to be identified as one of the disciples of Jesus, for fear of Jews. But later he was testifying boldly before the Israelites, who were responsible for crucifixion, declaring, 'You killed the author of life, but God raised him from the dead. We are witnesses of this' (Acts 3:15). Once a timid Peter was transformed into a bold one.

### **2. From Impulsive to Firm**

Peter was impulsive. He was the initiator of any discussion. He was the first one to raise questions, and he was the first one to answer. He speaks before he thinks. At the transfiguration of Jesus, two men were talking with Jesus.



As the men were leaving Jesus, Peter said to Him, “Master, it is good for us to be here. Let us put up three shelters—one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.” (Luke 9:33). Then the Bible records, ‘he did not know what he was saying’. Such was his impulsive nature. But later, at the council of Jerusalem, there was a dispute over circumcision. When the question for discussion came, Peter was not impulsive at this time. He concludes only after he heard the opinions of all others gathered there, ‘after much discussion’ (Acts 15:7). He was transformed to be assertive.

### **3. From Sleeping to Praying**

At Gethsemane, Jesus was deeply distressed and troubled. At that time, he admonished his disciples to ‘watch and pray’. But Peter, along with other disciples, was found sleeping. In a voice of anguish and sorrow, he said to Peter, ‘Simon, are you asleep? Couldn’t you watch with me even one hour? Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. (Mark 14:38). But this Peter was later admonishing the church to be alert as ‘Your enemy, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.’ (1 Peter 5:8). He was transformed to be a man of prayer.

### **4. From Being Served to Serving**

At the time when Jesus washed the feet of His disciples, Peter, in the beginning, resisted Jesus that he never wash his feet. But later, he allowed Jesus to wash his feet. Perhaps this incident of his master serving the disciples made a long-lasting impact on his mind. Later, he admonished the leaders of the church to be ‘eager to serve’ (1 Peter 5:2). It took a great transformation to be a man of service.

### **5. From Emotional to Principled**

When Jesus was sought for in the garden, Peter drew the sword and cut off the right ear of Malcus, the high priest’s servant. Peter did this out of emotion. But later, he admonished the church leaders to ‘endure if you suffer for doing good’ (1 Peter 2:20). Now he was going by the principle, not by emotions.

### **How Transformation is Possible**

Transformation is possible in the lives of disciples if they are committed to following Jesus Christ. A timid, impulsive, and emotional person transformed into a courageous, principled, firm, and vibrant preacher and leader in the expansion of the kingdom of Christ. Jesus was so compassionate in dealing with Peter; he answered all the questions Peter asked, exercised perseverance in the process of his failures, forgave his betrayal when repentant, and finally made Peter understand the love of Jesus.

### **From Peter’s side, he did his part as below:**

1. He was willing to leave everything to follow Jesus (Mark 1:17).
2. He was willing to take a risk.
3. He acknowledged and confessed the supremacy of Jesus (Mark 8:29, Mat 16:14–17).
4. He learned lessons from his mistakes.
5. His repentance was genuine (Mark 14:72).
6. He confessed his love for Jesus, which made him feed the flock (John 21).

Are you willing to be a disciple of Jesus and allow Him to transform your life?

**- Lilly Stanley Jones,  
Mancherial**



# Tentmaking

The name “Union of Evangelical Students of India” (UESI) reflects the original vision of its founders. One of the early staff members, Brother P.C. Varghese, used to travel even to the foothills of the Himalayas. A student he mentored during such visits has since been pastoring a church with her husband in the upper Himalayas. There were many such stories, but in the following decades, not much progress was seen in the ministry in North India.

Today, even after seven decades, UESI doesn’t have a viable student ministry in the 13 states in the extreme north, above Madhya Pradesh. In this scenario, the southern states, where the ministry is stronger, have a mission mandate to reach these unreached states. So, let’s try to understand the concept of tentmaking and its relevance to UESI’s cross-cultural student ministry.

The word “tentmakers” appears only once in the New Testament in Acts 18:3. In the Old Testament, it simply refers to the physical activity of making tents. However, in the New Testament, it’s understood in a figurative sense, as we see in Paul’s life. Paul worked hard day and night - preaching the gospel during the day and making and repairing tents at night. At present, tentmaking has become a technical term used in missiology as a mission strategy to spread the gospel, particularly in areas where it cannot be easily preached.

## Who is a UESI Tentmaker?

A UESI Tentmaker is a mission-motivated and self-supported disciple of the Lord Jesus Christ who has moved to a cross-cultural “needy place” and is involved in student ministry as their first priority. This is the definition provided by the TM Cell.

UESI Tentmakers are those who intentionally move from their comfortable native culture to an unfamiliar, often harsh, cross-cultural situation to establish student ministry in pioneering areas. They have a long-term commitment, living in these needy places for many years. If the ministry becomes strong enough, they move to another needy place, either within the state or to another needy state.

### **Can any believer who migrates to a cross-cultural situation be considered a tentmaker?**

We can't deny that a person who has moved due to a new job, promotion, or transfer may also play the role of a tentmaker if they set the right priorities. However, the difference is that a tentmaker is always ready to shift to a new place, risking their career as guided by the Spirit of God. In contrast, someone who moved for a job is bound by the requirements of the organization they serve rather than the needs of the mission field, and so may not always be available to shift to a more needy place.

### **What are the advantages of this strategy?**

A tentmaker gains great access to a variety of people who would otherwise be inaccessible. They find it easier to mingle with the community and

build personal relationships due to their identity as a teacher, doctor, or businessperson. In turn, people also feel free to express themselves with the tentmaker, as they play the role of a colleague, teacher, or mentor. Hence, communicating the gospel happens in a more natural way within the society. The profession also becomes a justified reason for the tentmaker to live in that particular community for a long term, often for many years or decades.

Tentmakers usually work in loosely associated teams in a particular city or region. The pioneer tentmaker facilitates the movement of a few more tentmakers and builds the team. This enables the tentmakers to be "salt and light" in society. We see in Acts 18 that Paul moved from place to place within a city and from city to city, leaving behind local believers to carry on the ministry in his absence.

### **Is tentmaking relevant only for restricted countries?**

Although it's more suitable for restricted countries, it's not a narrow idea. Rather, it's a broad-based and effective strategy for pioneering areas where the church doesn't exist.

### **Is tentmaking more suitable for urban student ministry?**

Due to the inherent advantages mentioned earlier, it is best suited

for urban ministry. In urban areas, various career opportunities are easily available for tentmakers. In general, many UESI tentmakers take up teaching jobs for the sake of student ministry, but they can take any job suitable to their profile.

### **What career options are available for UESI Tentmakers?**

Teachers at all levels, especially English teachers in many parts of North India; administrators in schools and other establishments; medical doctors and paramedics; technical jobs in factories; project engineers/ staff; field/administrative jobs in NGOs; and entrepreneurship. There is no dearth of opportunities.

### **Is tentmaking the only strategy for pioneering ministry?**

Tentmaking is uniquely suitable for student ministry in unreached states, but it doesn't undermine any other strategy. Paul certainly believed it was right and proper that full-time servants of God be supported by believers (1 Cor. 9:14; 1 Tim. 5:17–18). Both strategies go together and complement each other.

### **How can we make graduates and students aware of these opportunities?**

They should be given opportunities to hear firsthand from the tentmakers who have gone out from the state.

Additionally, this topic should be explored in local, regional, and state-level gatherings.

### **Conclusion**

A tentmaker is a disciple of Lord Jesus, clear about their call to be a professional in another culture, using their skills to stay relevant in the community, preaching the gospel with words and deeds, loving the community they serve, being different in their career goals and the way they spend their salary, and always ready for a “marching order” to move to another needy place in obedience to the last command of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

When a decentralized state makes serious efforts in missions by sending tentmakers, it will also bring revival to the local ministry. An inward-looking church gets entangled in its own problems, but an outward-looking church is a mission-minded church, and it always grows. This applies to EUs and EGFs too!

### **- D.R. Moses and Beulah Moses**

Currently, D.R. Moses is the Chairperson of NEGF and a Board Member of UESI. He works as a teacher in a private school. He is a recipient of the 'Best Teacher Award' from the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) for his students' excellent results in the 12th grade. His family has been Tentmakers in Madhya Pradesh for the last 22 years. Their son Anugrah is in Class IX



# God's Vision

**T**here is a great vision rooted in God's heart. This vision is not just for the future; it's a higher plan that guides our every step right now. It shows God's endless love and will for humankind. When we give our lives to His vision, we become part of the Creator's great plan, not just working for ourselves. We find real meaning and satisfaction by understanding God's will and our role in it.

## God's Two-Part Vision

The vision of God is always twofold. These two are deeply rooted in God's heart and reveal His eternal plan for humanity. One is the restoration of Israel, His covenant people, and the second is bringing the gospel to every nation, language, and people in the world.

1. Israel being rebuilt
2. Gentiles being saved

These two key parts of God's vision make clear how He sees His people and the world. The restoration of Israel shows He keeps His promises, and the salvation of the Gentiles shows how wide His grace is.

### 1. The Restoration of Israel (or God's People)

God has a deep concern for the Israelites; He wants them all to have a good relationship with Him again. In the Bible, they are often described as lamps that have gone out or lost their light. This situation isn't just about ancient Israel; it also applies to Christians today, especially the current generation of believers, like students and graduates, who may have once



had Christ's light but struggle to keep it burning in their ministry and personal lives. They are constantly lighting up and going out.

The text emphasizes that a lamp like this needs to be fixed. This is a personal duty. The Bible, however, gives a serious warning: if someone has received spiritual light, experienced Christ, and then falls away, it is extremely difficult, sometimes impossible, to be renewed again (to repent and start a new life), according to the Book of Hebrews (Hebrews 6:4-6). This is not a lack of God's grace, but it shows how serious sin is and its results.

Some are returning to their old habits and worldly, sinful ways, like "a dog returning to its vomit or a pig wallowing in the mud" (2 Peter 2:22). God's heart is deeply troubled by these people, and He shares His pain through His servants. He strongly desires that His people return from their fallen state.

### **Restoration Steps**

Here are clear spiritual instructions on how to restore a dying or dead lamp. This is an excellent plan for how to shine again in our spiritual lives:

**A. First, clean the lamp:** If the lamp is dirty, it won't shine properly. Likewise, in our spiritual lives, we must first become pure and holy in God's presence.

**B. Fix the wick:** If the wick is burnt and not right, the lamp can't give light. Likewise, we must fix the flaws in our character. We need to fix the pride, sin, and disobedience in us. We must become like clay in God's hands so He can shape us and fix our faults.

**C. Pour in oil:** The lamp needs oil to burn. In spiritual life, we must pour in the oil of prayer. We must have a constant relationship with God through fasting, tearful prayers, and personal prayers. A life without prayer is like a lamp without oil.

### **D. Light it again (with the Word):**

After pouring the oil, the lamp must be lit again. We must be re-lit with the Word of God. The Word of God is a "lamp to our feet and a light to our path." We must burn brightly in the Spirit again through the Word.

Also, some key practices are suggested for spiritual growth:

- \* **Quiet Time with God:** Spending time alone with God and thinking about the Word.
- \* **Personal Bible Study (PBS) and Fellowship:** Studying the Bible alone and having unity and friendship with other believers.
- \* **Attending Bible Studies and Camps:** Taking part in classes and camps to learn God's Word and grow spiritually.

## Why does God want to restore you?

It's not just for your own spiritual benefit. He wants to shape you into a leader. His plan is to make you a clean lamp that will be useful to many people. If you obey His will, God will surely do great things through you.

### 2. The Salvation of the Gentiles

Here, God's second concern—the salvation of souls—is clear. You should keep growing spiritually and physically where you are. However, this growth isn't just for you; God wants to make you a blessing to those around you.

If you look around your area, there are many colleges and outreach areas. In these places, there are many students and people who have never

heard the gospel. We have the great responsibility to share Christ's love and the way of salvation with them.

It took the Lord many years to fix your own personal spiritual life. Now, He expects the countless students and colleges that have never seen or been lit to receive light through you this year. The Lord Jesus Himself said, "You are the light of the world." Therefore, God wants you to be a light in your area, your college, and your workplace. This is the Lord's pain! Let us understand this pain and fulfill His will. God expects you to clean yourself up, become a light, and be a blessing to many. Amen!

- Ravi Kumar,  
Khammam

\* \* \* \* \*

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State Level  
**Graduates  
Training  
Program  
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7- 9 Nov

**Course**

- ✓ Vision & Aims of NEGF
- ✓ Graduates' Role in UESI ministry
- ✓ Role of EGF in girls ministry
- ✓ Student to Graduate Transition
- ✓ Creative Bible Studies
- ✓ Team Work & Relationships
- ✓ Job Ethics, Culture & Challenges
- ✓ Employment Skills
- ✓ Graduates in Career
- ✓ Financial Stewardship

**Participants**

- ✓ Outgoing Students(UG & PG)
- ✓ Outgone Students
- ✓ Single Graduates
- ✓ Graduate Families (1-10 years married)
- ✓ 200 Seats

**Fee**

- ✓ Family, Rs.1500
- ✓ Singles, Rs.1000
- ✓ Unemployed Grads & Students : Rs. 500

**Venue** UESI-TG Study Center **Theme** Faithful Before God, Faultless Before Men. Dan 6:4-5



UESI  
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## Hearts & Hands

(Contributing to the Cause)

**"BE STRONG AND DO THE WORK"**  
-1 CHRONICLES 28:10

We humbly come before you with a special request for prayer. As we set out on a significant mission to expand and improve our facilities, we are reminded of the Lord's call to be strong and faithful in our work.

We ask for your fervent prayers for these specific projects:

- **Second Floor Hall:** Costing an estimated Rs. 91 lakhs, this project covers a plinth area of 5,327 sq. ft. and a slab area of 7,300 sq. ft.
- **Caretaker's Quarter:** Estimated cost is Rs. 6 lakhs.
- **Internal Roads:** Estimated cost is Rs.11 lakhs.
- **Water Recycling Plant:** Estimated cost is Rs. 2 lakhs.
- **Beautification:** Estimated cost is Rs. 3 lakhs.
- **Maheswaram Finishing:** This includes internal and external plastering, doors, windows, and the compound wall, with an estimated cost of Rs.12 lakhs.

The total estimated cost for all projects is **Rs.1.25 Crores**.

We are aiming to complete the second floor hall within one year. Pray for wisdom, skilled labor, and divine provision to see this vision through.

- G. Varaprasad, Property Secretary,  
UESI-TG

# True faith is more than religion



(Continuation...)

## VI) The Importance of Knowing Jesus Personally and Experiencing His Love

The ultimate aim of a believer is to get to know Jesus, which involves developing a personal relationship with Him through faith, prayer, scripture, and living according to His teachings. To know Jesus more personally, one should focus on developing this relationship through prayer, studying and meditating on God's word, and practicing and following His teachings daily. This involves actively seeking to know and understand Him, His nature, and His character, listening to His voice through the scriptures and prayer,

and striving to live according to His example.

To know more about Jesus, one might also study the history of Jesus, theology, philosophy, and apologetics. It is important to seek fellowship, finding a community of Christians who can support and encourage you in your spiritual development. Participate in community and church activities. Be open to sharing your experiences with others and inviting them to learn more about Jesus, who is the real God. Recognize that you cannot know Jesus fully on your own. Ask for His help and the Holy Spirit's guidance in every aspect of your life.

To experience His power, worship

is a time when believers can tangibly experience God's presence, leading to spiritual growth and transformation. Worship can bring about breakthroughs in areas of life like guidance, knowing His will, healing, forgiveness, freedom, and spiritual clarity. Following Jesus' example of selfless service to others is a tangible way to experience His love for people and express our love for Him, bringing glory to Him. Serving others, especially those in need, can open our hearts to love and compassion as modeled by Jesus, and can deepen our experience of His love. This intimacy with Jesus helps us to recognize His love in our lives and respond to it with love and obedience.

Following Jesus' commandments is not legalism but an overflow of love and gratitude for His sacrifice. Obedience is a natural part of a loving relationship with Jesus, demonstrating our love for Him and our desire to live according to His will. By actively engaging in these practices, we can cultivate a deeper understanding and experience of Jesus' love, transform our lives, and deepen our faith. Living out faith in a personal relationship with Jesus motivates believers to live their faith authentically, demonstrating

His love and teachings in their daily lives. This involves following His example, seeking to do His will, and sharing His message with others.

Hurry is one of our great life struggles. Even when we slow down and make time for God, we still struggle to turn off our racing thoughts. Hurry quenches the Holy Spirit, so we must eliminate it and make time for sustained seeking-and-listening prayer to experience God's love. Paul's prayer is that God would strengthen us with power through His Spirit in our inner being. He prays with all his energy that we would learn to read the Bible, pray, and integrate these truths into our hearts. This is the practice of biblical meditation. Paul's prayer is that we grasp the love of Christ, not merely God's love in general. He emphasizes Jesus's love for us to remind us to meditate on the cross. He prays that we might have the power of the Holy Spirit to experience God, so that we would grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ.

Therefore, we must pray regularly, read the Bible, study the Bible, listen and obey the voice of God, follow Jesus as our model, actively apply His teachings, seek fellowship

and witness, connect with other believers, share our faith, cultivate a heart of humility, and trust. By consistently engaging with these practices, you can cultivate a deeper, more personal relationship with Jesus, experiencing His love, grace, and guidance in your life. Knowing Jesus personally and experiencing His love is fundamental to Christian faith, offering profound transformation, purpose, and eternal life. It is a relationship that goes beyond intellectual knowledge or religious practices, deeply impacting one's spiritual life and transforming how one views oneself and the world. This personal relationship provides strength, forgiveness, and a sense of security, ultimately shaping one's identity and actions.

### **Transformation and Purpose**

A personal relationship with Jesus leads to spiritual transformation, impacting one's thoughts, feelings, and actions. It offers a sense of purpose and meaning in life, guiding believers in their daily lives and toward eternal life. Knowing Jesus provides the power to overcome life's challenges and find forgiveness for past mistakes. It allows believers to experience God's love, compassion, and acceptance, even after falling short of

His expectations. God's love, as revealed through Jesus, provides a deep sense of security and hope, offering comfort and reassurance in a world that can often feel unstable. This love also inspires a desire to live a life that reflects His values and teachings. Through a personal relationship with Jesus, believers gain a deeper understanding of God's character, including His love, mercy, and grace. This knowledge helps believers to grow in their faith and align their lives with His will. A personal relationship with Jesus motivates believers to live out their faith authentically, demonstrating His love and teachings in their daily lives. This involves following His example, seeking to do His will, and sharing His message with others. Ultimately, knowing Jesus personally in our daily lives and experiencing His love is a powerful experience that transforms believers from the inside out, offering a life of purpose, hope, and eternal significance.

### **VII) Examples of How a Relationship with Christ Changes Our Lives**

**A) St. Augustine:** He was known as the world's greatest sinner. He became a saint through a spiritual transformation that led him to embrace Christianity and dedicate



his life to God's service. Christ is the reason for his changed life. Initially, he was a brilliant but worldly young man who lived a life of sin and embraced various philosophies before being deeply impacted by the writings of St. Paul. A pivotal moment occurred when he heard a child's voice chanting "Tolle, lege" (take up and read), which prompted him to open the Bible and read Paul's Letter to the Romans. This led to his conversion. His world was changed from sinner to saint. This is the power of Jesus Christ in his life. The world of Augustine was completely changed through the relationship between Jesus Christ and Augustine. The power of a relationship with Jesus Christ is immeasurable.

**B) George Whitefield:** He was an Anglican evangelist and preacher whose "secret" lay in his powerful preaching and fervent evangelism, which ignited the First Great Awakening in the American colonies and beyond. He achieved this through a combination of captivating delivery, a focus on personal, experiential faith, and a commitment to applying biblical truths to everyday life. God's word changed his life to transform the American colonies. His relationship with Christ was amazing.

## VIII) Seek a Deeper Connection with God Beyond Rituals

There are a few things that can distract us from a deeper connection with God, such as a lack of desire to know more about God, distractions from our intentions, an unwillingness to purge, the pain of past wounds, willfulness, pride, a sense of self-sufficiency, impatience, the need to know everything, people-pleasing, self-contentedness, and a love of materialism. Few obstacles cause us to keep away from God:

- a) **The logical obstacle:** Questions like, "How do you know the Bible is true?"
- b) **The emotional obstacle:** Pain can often keep us from belief.
- c) **The behavioral obstacle:** seeing that God is calling us to a holy life makes many people reject Jesus because they want to live by their own standards.
- d) **The cultural obstacle:** some of these barriers are false; being a Christian in America doesn't mean you are necessarily white, Republican, or conservative. Every culture is called to account by Jesus.
- e) **The spiritual obstacle:** Only God the Holy Spirit can change a heart. Christians are called to make disciples, but we are not

capable of changing people.

A spiritual war is taking place.

## Conclusion

A deeper connection with Christ is about a personal, loving relationship, not just adherence to religious rituals. While rituals can be meaningful expressions of faith, a true connection with Christ comes from faith, personal prayer, Bible study, and actively seeking to live according to His teachings. A personal relationship is more profound.

Focus on the heart, not just actions: God desires a relationship with our hearts, not just outward displays of religious behavior. Spiritual growth comes from faith in Christ, not simply performing rituals. A relationship with Christ is unique and personal, involving individual communication through prayer and reflection on His Word. These practices should flow from a genuine love for God and be an expression of that love, not a substitute for it.

A relationship with Christ has the power to transform a person's life, leading to personal growth, changed behavior, and a deeper understanding of God's will. As William Temple described, worshiping God with our whole being is the submission

of our entire being to God. It encompasses the quickening of conscience, the nourishment of the mind, the purification of imagination, the opening of the heart, and the surrender of the will. He emphasized that worship is more than just ritual; it is a deep, transformative experience that addresses self-contentedness and brings one closer to God. Therefore, we must surrender to Lord Jesus Christ with our conscience, mind, imagination, heart, and will through our deepest connection at His feet for His awesome glory at any cost in our lives. This is the ultimate meaning of our lives.

“Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself... By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples” (John 15:4-8).

“Religion Blinds Us, Truth Liberates Us” - Dr. Vishal Mangalwadi

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M.Tech, Ph.D (Post Doctoral Fellowship),  
Urban and Premier - Secretary.



# Rahab

(A Woman With Undaunted Faith)

**A**fter becoming believers, many people are afraid to show their faith through actions and stay secret believers. However, the Bible says that faith without actions is useless (James 2:26).

Rahab, a Canaanite prostitute in the Book of Joshua, is a great example. She lived on the wall of the city of Jericho. She heard about God's amazing acts and put strong faith in Him. Because of this faith, she risked her life to hide two

Israelite spies. As a result, she and her family were saved.

In the Book of Exodus, two Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, feared God and disobeyed the Pharaoh's order by letting the Israelite baby boys live. Because of this, God gave them families (Exodus 1:17, 21). In the same way, because Rahab hid the two spies and didn't fear the King of Jericho, she was able to live among the Israelites and start a new life.

## **Rahab's Faith in God's Promise**

Joshua, son of Nun, secretly sent two men to spy on Jericho (Joshua 2:1-21). When they reached Rahab's house, she hid them under stalks of flax on her roof. Men sent by the King of Jericho searched her house for the spies but left when they didn't find them.

Rahab then talked to the spies and explained what she had heard about God's greatness and miracles. She told them that the people of Jericho were terrified after hearing about God's mighty acts in Egypt and his battles for Israel. She bravely stated her belief that the Lord is God in heaven above and on the earth below, and that no one could stand up to the Israelites.

She begged them not to destroy her and her family when they captured the city. They agreed and told her to tie a red cord in her window as a sign. She then helped them escape safely down the rope through the window.

## **The Fall of Jericho and Rahab's Rescue (Joshua 6:1-25)**

Joshua and the priests carried the Ark of the Covenant and walked around Jericho once a day for six days. On the seventh day, they circled the city seven times. When

the priests blew the trumpets and the people shouted, the walls of Jericho fell. Everyone went into the city and killed every person inside with a sword.

However, the spies brought Rahab and all her family out. Then, the city was burned with fire. Only the silver, gold, bronze, and iron items were placed in the Lord's treasury. From that time on, Rahab lived among the Israelites.

Rahab's name isn't mentioned again in the Old Testament, but it appears in the New Testament in Matthew 1:5: "Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab." According to James 2:25, Rahab was considered righteous because of her actions. It is amazing that she lived among the Israelites and became the mother of Boaz, who is in the family line of Jesus Christ.

## **Lessons from Rahab's Life**

- \* Even though all the people of Jericho heard about the great things done by the Israelites' God, the Lord, no one else showed faith like Rahab did.
- \* She risked her life to help God's people.
- \* She started a new life based on her strong faith in God, and He gave her a good family.
- \* As the wife of Salmon and

mother of Boaz, she understood God's plans and built a strong life and family.

- \* It is truly a blessing that through Boaz, who was in the line of Elimelech-Perez, came Obed, Jesse, David, and finally Jesus Christ.
- \* Rahab didn't know the Law as well as the Israelites, but she was able to raise her son Boaz with great godly discipline.
- \* Boaz grew up to be an honest, upright, and complete man. This shows how hard Rahab worked as a mother.
- \* She didn't feel bad about her past life or blame her parents, but bravely moved forward with faith in God.
- \* She followed the parts of the Law she knew and was newly learning, raising her son Boaz to have spiritual and moral values.
- \* Rahab likely prayed that her past life and sins would not affect her son.
- \* She built her family on steady faith in God, without fear for the future.
- \* She ignored rumors, insults, rejection, shame, mockery, and ridicule, and kept moving forward.

## Conclusion

After being saved, we shouldn't dwell too much on our past life or family background and be overcome with guilt. Satan may try to use others to remind us of our past and hurt us, but we must keep going with the certainty of God's Word. Rahab, who was a sinner, became a bright person, wife, and mother after being freed from sin.

By trusting God and welcoming the spies, she was not destroyed with the disobedient and was added to the list of heroes of faith (Hebrews 11:31). Although little is written about her in the Bible, looking at Boaz's life shows how hard she worked as a mother to raise him into a great man.

We should not look down on others because of their background or hurt them with mean words. If we do, God might give our blessings to others. When we show our faith through actions, God will use us for his work, no matter our past.

May we receive God's grace to raise our children in the fear and devotion of God, even if we face rejection because of our family background! May God give us all a faith that includes actions!

- Triveni Srinu,

Ramanthapur Zone, Hyderabad





**Bill Bright**  
**(1921-2003)**

## **Founder of Campus Crusade**

**C**ampus Crusade for Christ has shared the Gospel and trained followers for Christ more than almost any other ministry in world history. The ministry's simple slogan is to 'Win, Build, and Send' college students for Christ.

This great organization started because one person obeyed God's call. Today, Campus Crusade works worldwide with over 25,000 staff and more than 500,000 trained volunteers.

The founder of this ministry was Bill Bright. He is considered one of the most influential evangelical leaders of the late 20th century.

### **Childhood and Education**

William Bright was born in Coveta,

Oklahoma, on October 19, 1921. His mother dedicated him to God while he was in her womb. During childbirth, she promised God that if her baby was born healthy, she would dedicate him to God for any service based on the Lord's calling. In a way, Bill Bright was committed to ministry before he was even born.

Bright was used to hard work from childhood. Because his family's farm didn't have electricity, he worked hard on the farm even when he was little. Bright's humble, difficult upbringing affected him throughout his life.

He became known as a tireless worker. Compared to his fellow

evangelists, he lived a simple lifestyle. He followed the same standards that applied to all Campus Crusade staff. He didn't receive any royalties from his extensive writings. He never depended on others for money throughout his life.

Bright grew up in the small town of Covetta, where he went to a small Methodist church. But he didn't see religion as a very important part of his life. For Bright, working hard and being honest was more important than going to church. As a teenager, Bright thought Christianity was only for women and children, not for men.

Bright wanted to make a name for himself. However, good opportunities were limited in Oklahoma back then. After finishing high school, Bright decided to attend Northeastern State College. But he wasn't very interested in academics. He soon got busy with as many extra activities as possible. Bright played main roles in school plays, improved his public speaking as a member of the debate team, and grew his leadership skills as class president.

Bright wanted success and fame. He moved to Los Angeles, a good place for business. He decided to realize his dreams there.

## Conversion Experience

In 1944, Bill Bright's move to the West Coast brought more blessings than he expected. Bright didn't go to the West Coast to find Jesus, but Jesus was already looking for Bill Bright.

His landlords there went to the Hollywood Presbyterian Church, which was the largest church in America at the time. Bright started going to the church with them.

All of Bright's ideas about Christianity and church life changed in a moment. Because the church members in his hometown of Covetta, Oklahoma, seemed simple and boring to him. But Bright was surprised to see famous movie stars in the Hollywood Presbyterian Church. Especially, one woman caught the young Bright's attention.

She was Henrietta Mears, a wealthy and influential leader in the church. She taught a Sunday school class. Her teachings inspired Bill Bright to learn about theology and teaching methods.

Mears knew many movie stars. She strongly believed in the power of the Bible, God's Word. That's why she invited German theologians to her house to study deep subjects in the Bible.

Henrietta Mears focused heavily on turning people toward Christ.

Her Bible lessons were long and interesting. After every session, she explained the message of salvation.

In that environment, Bill Bright saw a type of Christianity he hadn't imagined before. Influential people enthusiastically worshipped God, spent hours in Bible studies, and tried to live completely for Christ. All of this deeply affected the young Bill Bright.

In 1945, within a year of moving to Los Angeles, Bill Bright was completely changed by Mears' teachings.

### **Theological Studies**

Bright became very active in the Hollywood Presbyterian Church. He met many famous people at that time. His sincerity, his desire to serve others, and his strong commitment to Christ impressed everyone. These qualities made him stand out.

Bright decided to dedicate his life to full-time ministry. In late 1945, he was appointed as a deacon in the church. To pursue ministry more formally, he decided to get training. With this goal, he went to Princeton Seminary in 1946.

At Princeton Seminary, Bright really liked classes on the Old and New Testaments. But he didn't like learning the Bible languages or

studying Systematic Theology. This attitude lasted his whole life. That's why, even in his later writings, he wasn't able to explain his theological ideas in an organized way.

He loved the Scriptures deeply, but he didn't understand how theology classes could help him 'win' souls for Christ. That's why he left Princeton Seminary quickly and returned to Los Angeles. There, he focused on growing his small candy business.

Even so, Bright continued to serve as a deacon in his church. He also shared the Gospel widely in the areas around Los Angeles.

In 1946, a new **seminary** called Fuller opened in Southern California. Bill Bright decided to go **back to** seminary. He joined Fuller Seminary as a student in the first **batch**. **There**, he excelled at sharing his faith and church service. But he got very low marks in academics. Because of this, he was placed on academic probation at the end of the first semester.

Bright then told a professor, "When Christ comes, I'm not going to be sitting here studying Greek." Soon after, he left the seminary.

### **Ministry at Church and College Campuses**

Bright returned to his business from the seminary and continued

his service as a deacon and elder at the church. During this time, he started visiting college campuses around Los Angeles with his former classmates from Fuller to preach the Gospel.

Fuller faculty noticed Bright's passion for sharing his faith and encouraged him toward a more effective ministry. In fact, despite being on probation for poor academic performance, the faculty decided to give him another chance to finish his degree. That's why they encouraged Bright to return to Fuller.

So, he went back to the school in 1950. However, Bright moved away from the idea of serving the church officially. Instead, he focused more than ever on reaching people, especially influential student leaders on college campuses.

### **Campus Crusade – Reaching College Campuses**

Bright enrolled in Fuller Seminary, but his mind wasn't on his studies. He had a great hunger for souls. That's why he spent a lot of time sharing the Gospel and looking after his small business. Because of this, he spent less time on his schoolwork. As a result, in his third attempt, he failed both Greek and Hebrew at the seminary. He felt it was wrong to sit in a room studying

theology when thousands of people outside were going to hell.

It was during this time that Bright received a clear vision from God to start a ministry fully dedicated to reaching college campuses. This completely changed his life. Bright sat in Professor Wilbur Smith's office, lamenting his dislike for academic studies, but excitedly talking about the new college ministry God had called him to start. Professor Wilbur Smith encouraged Bright to pursue his dream. With Professor Smith's encouragement, Bright followed God's call. That's how Campus Crusade for Christ was born in 1951.

### **The Early Days of the Brights' Ministry**

Bright and his wife, Vonette, gathered a group of friends in their kitchen. There, he made his plan for the ministry that was starting at the University of California – Los Angeles campus. Bright felt a deep command from the Holy Spirit that God wanted the Great Commission to be fulfilled through his generation. He clearly knew what that involved. He planned to use all the tools of technology to achieve it.

Bright strongly believed that if they could reach the

college campus today, they could reach the world tomorrow. Because of their leadership potential, college students involved in Campus Crusade were later called the 'Powerful Percentage'. Bright continued his ministry with the idea of raising future leaders, training them, sending them out, and having them continue the same work wherever they went.

Bright never gave up on his life's mission. When asked, "If you had a chance to live your life over, what would you do differently?" Bright answered: "I would focus more on winning and training God's men and women whom He has already chosen and appointed as His representatives to the world. Spiritual multiplication is the key to changing the world."

This means Bright deeply understood that God's Kingdom could only be quickly expanded by identifying and training those God had chosen to do His work. This points to the great idea of everyone working together to expand God's work, not just one person's effort. Bright believed that the Gospel would spread worldwide through the principle of this Spiritual Multiplication.

## Conclusion

Bill Bright was a person who completely lived his life for the Lord. After fighting pulmonary fibrosis, a lung disease, for many years, he died on July 19, 2003. Bright continued his writing and teaching until his last breath. When his lungs failed, he recorded teaching messages through tubes about a wonderful Savior, even while breathing with the help of artificial lungs. Even though he was wheezing and breathing was difficult and slow, the Holy Spirit worked powerfully in him. In this way, Bill Bright was involved in God's service until the very last moment of his life.

Bill Bright's life is a great example for us. Like him, let's continue ministering to college students, following the Campus Crusade approach. Now is the right time to reach perishing students with the Gospel. How many of us have the dedication and commitment to ministry that Bill Bright had? Let's do our part so that students can hear God's Gospel at least once before they leave campus.

*(The above article was collected from internet sources)*

– Ruth Vinay, Pragathinagar,  
Cyberabad





## This is a Student Movement

It was Wednesday evening. Vijay had one thought: he had to escape. He mustn't be seen by the seniors. Why? Because they'd invite him to a Bible study. Honestly, he didn't like going to any meetings other than church ones.

"Ugh! The seniors are so responsible about inviting me. I can't say 'No,' but I can't say 'Yes' either," Vijay thought to himself.

As he thought this and took a few steps past his hostel room, he heard, "Brother, good evening!" He turned to look. He ran right into the

people he'd been trying to avoid. Scolding himself, he said, "Hello, good evening, brother," and shook hands.

Along with Prasad (the brother who always invited him to Bible study), there was another senior. Vijay looked at the new senior with a question mark. Then Prasad introduced him: "This brother's name is Raju. He recently finished his studies and is now working. He studied at this college and lived in this hostel."

"Since he studied here and is

working now, maybe he can give me some placement info!” Vijay thought. He introduced himself: “Hi brother, I’m Vijay. I’m in BSc second year.”

The friendship with Raju started because of placement, but it grew into a good bond. Raju would visit Vijay not just for Bible studies, but also for casual chats. They would talk about many things while drinking tea at the canteen.

Raju explained how he was saved, how he used to attend EU Bible studies, how many camps he attended, what fellowship in Christ with brothers and sisters was like, and the career advice they gave. Because Raju was with him every day, Vijay also became curious to know what UESI was.

One day, Prasad and Raju came together to invite him to the combined gathering for “UESI Formation Day.” Since he was interested in learning about UESI, Vijay didn’t make any excuses and quickly agreed.

The time came to go to the gathering. He went to the venue with the other EU students. Graduates, students, and families were already

there. Even though they didn’t know who he was, Vijay really liked how they welcomed him warmly with a smile. The atmosphere also felt very pleasant.

The songs sung by the students were very meaningful. Afterward, two graduate brothers and two students shared how they were introduced to UESI and how they grew spiritually through it.

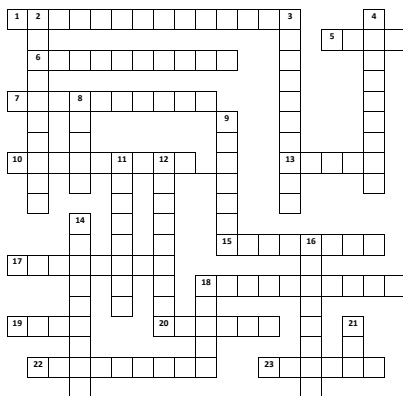
Then, Raju stood up and explained when and how UESI was formed, what its ministry’s goal is, who is involved, its vision, mission, and doctrines. This increased Vijay’s liking, respect, and interest to learn more about the UESI ministry.

He also really liked the things the students had shared earlier. Vijay understood that this ministry does not interfere with church activities but actually encourages the churches. He decided to grow in this great gospel ministry and do his part.

Vijay clearly understood that this student movement, where students reach other students, is a ministry run with a good purpose.

**- Chegudi Syamala Krupa Rao,**  
**Teacher and Graduate, AG Zone**

## October '25 Book of Ezekiel (15-16 Chapters)



### Across

1. They did not rub you with salt, nor wrap you in what?
5. What kind of cloth did I clothe you with?
6. Your origin and your birth are from which land?
7. When I married you and made a covenant with you, what did you become?
10. On the day you were born, what was not cut for you?
13. I put earrings on your ears and a nose ring on your nose, and what on your head?
15. You did not remember your \_\_\_\_\_ days, and with all these things, you provoked Me?
17. What will I do to the land?
18. What kind of leather sandals did I put on you?
19. When you receive them, what will you remember and be ashamed of?
20. They will bring a multitude against you and stone you to death with what?
22. On the day you were born, where were you cast out?
23. You and your daughters will return to what state?

### Down

2. In what ways did you behave, even surpassing their conduct?
3. What did you build in every street?
4. What will I diminish for you when I become your adversary?
8. By multiplying your acts of harlotry, what did you cause Me to feel?
9. You became exceedingly beautiful and advanced to become what?
11. What will I establish with you so that you may know that I am the Lord?
12. By committing so many abominable acts, how did you make your sister appear?
14. With fury and jealousy, what will I appoint for you?
16. What was not enough, so you slaughtered My children and offered them as sacrifices to them?
18. Where, though you were wallowing, did I tell you to live?
21. What will happen to you for committing so much wickedness?

- K. Kiran Kumar,  
Staff, Mahabubnagar

## September '25 Book of Ezekiel (13-14 Chapters)

**Across:** 1. Repent, 4. Gaps, 6. Futile, 8. Deliver, 9. Sign, 13. Foolish, 14. Foxes, 15. Plaster, 16. Stormywind, 17. Enemy, 18. Israel, 19. Lies.

**Down:** 1. Righteousness, 2. Profane, 3. Face, 5. Save, 7. Seduce, 10. Idols, 11. Estranged, 12. Flooding, 15. Prophet

# Beautiful Bible

**B**eautiful Bible, herald of mercy!  
Beautiful Bible, message of love!  
Pointing the way to the heavenly city,  
Guiding our steps to the kingdom above.



## Refrain:

Beautiful Bible! wonderful Bible!  
Word of the loving Father above;  
Radiant with light as the sun in the heavens,  
Sweet with the story of Christ and His love.

Beautiful Bible! rich are thy treasures,  
Bright are thy pearls of wisdom and truth;  
Strength of our hearts mid earth's trials and conflicts,  
Comfort of age and the guard of our youth.

Beautiful Bible! lighting the pathway,  
Leading from earth to Heaven above;  
Lamp of our feet to illumine the darkness,  
Till we shall enter God's kingdom of love.

**- Elisha A. Hoffman (1839-1929)**



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