

**Bible Prophecy Update – July 17, 2022**  
***The Prophetic Snowball Effect***  
**Pastor JD Farag**

For today's update, I want to talk with you about the prophetic snowball effect, as it were, with everything that's happening in the world today. And I'll explain what I mean by snowball effect.

What started initially, prophetically has now built upon itself. And as such has grown in both size and speed. And I'm using this metaphor because it best describes Bible prophecy today as it relates to its swiftness and as such, its unstoppable momentum.

Now we do have a problem, and the problem is that the last days prophecies in the Bible are increasingly cataclysmic and catastrophic as the world nears the end.

I know this is going to come off as a firm grasp of the obvious when I say this, but I say this nonetheless. The end of the world is just that: The end of the world.

I know that is deeply profound, but according to Bible prophecy, the end of the world is absolutely horrific. And that's almost an understatement to say it like that, especially as we near the 7-year tribulation, which we know is near for a number of reasons, not the least of which is by virtue of how even now we're experiencing much in the way of trials and tribulations as believers in and followers of Jesus.

Can I draw your attention to a very unpopular verse in the Bible? How's that for an introduction? Acts Chapter 14:22. Nobody really likes to talk about this verse, read this verse, and pastors certainly don't like to teach this verse. You'll see why here in a moment.

We're told Luke, by the Holy Spirit writes that "**There [Speaking of Antioch] they [Paul and Barnabas] Strengthened the souls of the disciples and encouraged them to continue in the faith.**"

We're good so far. I'll take that.

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Okay, so how did they encourage them and strengthen them in the faith? You ready for it?

Wait for it. They said to them, "**It is through many tribulations that we must enter the Kingdom of God.**"

Wait, I thought you were trying to encourage me and strengthen me to continue in the faith.

And you're telling me that you're encouraging me and strengthening me by telling me that I must go through many tribulations, not THE tribulation. We'll talk about that in a moment.

But I have to go through many tribulations in order to enter the kingdom of heaven? You're telling me that prior to the rapture of the church, which is prior to the 7-year tribulation that I have to go through much in the way of trials and tribulations?

Yes.

And that's supposed to strengthen me?

Yeah.

How does that work? How does that encourage me?

Oh, the Apostle Paul writing to the Thessalonians in his first epistle in the context of the rapture of the church, trying to encourage them because they were going through unspeakable hardship, pain, suffering, trials, tribulation, persecution, the list goes on and on and on. And they were really struggling. They were really hurting.

So how does Paul encourage them? Oh, he says, Yeah, I know you're going through all of this, and I know it's very hard, but here's the thing. Yeah, there are many tribulations, but soon and very soon the trumpet's going to sound and the dead in Christ, you know, those loved ones that died in Christ, knowing Christ, that you sorely grieve in sorrow over, your mom, your dad, your brother, your sister, God forbid, your son or your daughter that died in

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Christ. And you are just so grieving, not as the world grieves. We don't grieve as the world grieves without hope. No, we have that hope. We affectionately refer to it as the blessed hope.

And by the way, this is going to come up again in a moment. And I want to qualify this, and this is very important. Please don't miss this.

When you read the word hope in Scripture, it's not as we understand it in our day.

Example: I'll say to you something like, "I sure hope." I sure hope. I sure wish that, hope that.

No, no, no, no, no, no. That's really in the English language the only word that comes anywhere close to describing not this "I sure hope so." No, it's a done deal. It's a done deal.

It's not this, "I hope." No, it's "I know." And that's my hope. That's what my hope is in.

Again, we're going to talk about this more in a moment. I don't want to get ahead of myself.

Jesus - John 16:33 - listen to what He said about this. **"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace."** And then He says this: **"In the world you will have tribulation."**

Oh, how I wish He did not say it like that! Oh, how I wish it was something more like, "In this world, there's a possibility, there's a good chance that you might have some difficulty."

No, you will, you will. **"In the world you will have tribulation, but be of good cheer."** Be encouraged. Why? Because **"I have overcome the world."** And I am coming back to the world to take you out of the world. Be encouraged.

Yeah, but I'm going through much in the way of trials and tribulations. I know; I told you, you would, but in Me, you can have peace. And, oh, by the way, the peace that I give is not the

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same as the peace that the world has to offer. See, the peace that I give you is a perfect peace.

Isaiah would say it like this, and I love it. He says, "**He will keep him in perfect peace those whose mind is stayed on Him.**"

Perfect peace. It's a peace that's not predicated upon what's happening in my life, the struggles, the pressures of my life. It's a peace that surpasses, the Apostle Paul says, human understanding. It transcends. Can I say it like this? It defies human understanding. That's the peace that He wants to give us. And that peace is only found in Him.

In the world: Tribulation.

In Christ: Peace.

The Apostle Peter in his first epistle, Chapter 4:7. He says, "**The end of all things is near. Therefore [Listen] be alert and of sober mind so that you may pray.**"

Now why would he write that? Well, you have to understand the context. We're going to be back in 1 Peter here shortly. He's writing to Christians who are being thrown into these Colosseums for the entertainment of the Romans.

You'll forgive the graphic description, but this is what was happening at the time when Peter was inspired by the Holy Spirit to write this letter.

They would take the Christians, they would, Caesar Nero dipped them in tar, light them on fire, and then Nero would ride around in his chariot and he would mock them, "light of the world" as they would be burned alive.

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They would take large animals, and again, you'll forgive the graphic nature of it. They would gut them out, they would place the Christians alive within the bodies of these animals, the carcasses, and throw them into the Colosseum for entertainment as the wild, savage dogs would eat them alive. Of course, there were the lions. It was all for sport.

You know, when the Apostle Paul was on that ship, of course, shipwrecked again on the island of Malta, because the islanders, the locals there needed salvation. So that wasn't necessarily on Paul's itinerary in the Book of Acts, but God wanted them saved, so he had a stop in the island of Malta on the itinerary.

But do you know why that ship was full of these prisoners going to Rome? Because they were going to make sport of them. This is to whom this letter was written at that time.

Now please, I don't think it's fair to compare what we're going through in our day to what they went through in their day. It's a very different world that we're living in today, and I don't think it's, again, in all fairness, what we would refer to as an apple-to-apple comparison. I think in many respects there are more difficulties in our day being a Christian in this world.

So he's encouraging them how? As we near the end, it's getting harder and harder, so here's how I want to encourage you. I want to encourage you to be alert and of sober mind and pray.

Well, that's a novel idea, isn't it, pray?

Pastor, why are you starting out this way? Because the passages I just read and the many others like them speak to the purpose of our trials and tribulations.

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By the way, this Thursday were in the book of Jeremiah, a verse-by-verse study, and we're going to look at in Chapters 14 and 15, Lord willing, the purpose of adversity and afflictions, answering the question of: Why it is that God allows the suffering, the pain, the trials, the tribulation, the adversity, afflictions to continue.

God has a purpose in doing it. And if you were to ask me what I thought was the number one reason for tribulation, my answer, in a word, would be: Salvation. Such that when we finally realize that there's no hope for this world, we're more apt to put our hope in the next.

Actually, this is the main purpose of the last seven years in the 7-year tribulation, which is for the salvation of the Jewish nation. That's the purpose of not just a tribulation, THE tribulation, the 7-year tribulation. It has a purpose.

Every tribulation, every trial, every difficulty, every hardship, every affliction has a purpose.

I think of David in Psalm 119, two times, I think it's verse 67 and verse 73. He repeats it, but he kind of tweaks it when he does Basically, he says this: **"It was good that the Lord afflicted me."** Really?

(Disbelief gasp) What do you mean, David?

Oh, it was good that the Lord afflicted me with trials and tribulations because had He not afflicted me, I would have gone astray. It was good. That was the purpose of the affliction that He allowed in my life.

And then in verse 73, it might be the other way around, but he also says, **"It was good for You to afflict me because now I keep Your statutes, I keep Your Word."**

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See, had it not been for that affliction, that adversity, that trial, that tribulation, I would not have gotten into Your Word.

Let me just ask you a question. I mean, this in a loving way. I just want to ask you, it's a rhetorical question between you and the Holy Spirit. When was the last time you got into the Word of God and spent some time in the Word of God? And when you got into the Word, the Word got into you?

Maybe that trial, that difficulty that God has allowed, the adversity to strike in your life, maybe it's just for that reason. He hasn't heard from you in a while. Kind of misses you.

It's kind of like the kid in college. Never, never calls mom and dad unless he needs something. So Mom and Dad figure it out. Okay, well, I want to hear from him. And only time I hear from him is when he needs something. So now we're going to make him need something so we can hear from him. That's the best illustration I got, so...

Isn't it true, though that it's when affliction, trials, tribulation... That's the purpose.

Do you agree with me on this that when things are going good in life, we give little-to-no thought about salvation and eternal life.

And conversely, when adversity strikes and difficulty hits, and adversity strikes, we're all more prone to let go of this world and the things of this world.

The Apostle John and the Apostle Peter write about this powerful truth concerning one's love for this world and hope in this world.

Let me start with 1 John, the second Chapter beginning in verse 15. You know the passage well. John writes, "**Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the**

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**world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world is passing away.**" The world is dying, the world is lost and dying, it's passing away.

**"And the lust of it. But he who does the will of God abides forever."**

Let's get back to 1 Peter, this time Chapter 1:13. The Lord really ministered to me something here that I had not seen before, and I want to point it out to you.

He says, in the context of all of the difficulty and the trials and the tribulation and the persecution, he says, **"Therefore, prepare your minds for action; discipline yourselves,"** self-discipline. You know, you discipline your children; discipline yourself.

And then he says this, **"Set [Keyword] all your hope [All your hope] on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when He is revealed."**

Hear me out. There are – I'll need to rephrase this. Help me, Holy Spirit, please. I don't want to say this condemningly. I want to say this humbly and lovingly and kindly and gently and maybe in the form of a question.

Why is it that we as Christians are still holding out hope in this world? It's dying. Why are we still holding on?

I mean, it's like, okay, yeah, I still have a little hope. No, no, all your hope.

This is the problem. Again, hear me out. If a Christian, and I'm speaking in the broad sense, if a Christian is still somehow, and the Lord knows the heart, is still in their heart holding out some hope for this world, well, then, no wonder.

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Could it be - and we'll see this when we get to James - could it be what Jesus said in Matthew's Gospel Chapter 6 that the reason why we were still holding on and keeping our lives in this world on life support, it's dying, and we're still holding on to it, putting some hope in it, could it be that we've still got an investment in it? Because if our treasure is still here, then that's why our heart is still here. We've laid up for ourselves treasures.

Now, please don't misunderstand me, and we talked about this last week, and perhaps it bears repeating again this week. There's nothing wrong with having plans or even long-term plans. I wouldn't go too long on those plans with the way things are going. We'll talk about that more in a moment too, but hold on loosely to those plans and don't let those plans have you. And don't put your hope in that.

Because see, if you are still holding out hope in this world that's dying, passing away, and you're not setting all your hope on the grace –

I like the way that the Holy Spirit inspired Peter to say what he says because it's **"Set all your hope on the grace [Very important] that Jesus Christ will bring you."** He's bringing it to you. Bring it! (Chuckling) **"When He is revealed."** That's the rapture! It's the rapture! That's where my hope is, not most, all!

And this, again, is where the word "hope" is so important because it's not, "Oh, I sure hope." It's "No, I know."

Why do you have such hope? I mean, you're different.

Because I know. It's not "I know what's coming." I know who's coming for me and what He's bringing to me. And I have sold everything. I have let go of everything, and I put it all in Him.

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I've laid up for myself treasures in heaven where moth and rust cannot destroy and where thieves cannot break in and steal. It's protected.

Well, this brings me to the aforementioned prophetic snowball effect as it relates to everything that's now happening in the world today. And if you'll kindly allow me to, I'll take the remainder of our time together today to expound on this more specifically, but in order to do that, we'll go ahead at this time and end the YouTube and Facebook livestream.

So this prophetic snowball actually started rolling decades ago, but it was late 2019 and early 2020 that the ball really started rolling. And you know what I'm talking about, right?

It was at this time that everything began to pick up speed when the whole world was in lockstep like we've never seen before, the whole world in lockstep and went into lockdown, the whole world.

Now here we are some two-and-a-half-years later in 2022, and it now seems that it's moving even faster, which is why the unstoppable momentum has ensued.

What follows is a list of - I got it down to 10 - just 10 realities that we face today that even five years ago, though they were already in place, the ball was already rolling, we knew little to nothing about - five years - I'm going back five years.

The snowball starts rolling. Mask mandates.

And then it snowballs into mandated injections.

And then the snowball created supply chain disruptions because after all, everything was shut down. We were all on lockdown, and boy, did they do a very - I hate to use the word

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"good" in this context - but for lack of a better one, they did a very good job programing us and preparing us for these supply chain disruptions.

And then that snowballed into what we're experiencing now, which is food supply shortages. Who would have ever known? Famine is foreign to us. But it's snowballed into that, and it's because of an age-old principle known as supply/demand.

If you have a disrupted and depleted supply chain, that is inadequate for the demand, what's going to happen? Well, you see it every time you go to put gas in your car, which I did last week.

(Chuckling)

I just, I was like, Lord, come quickly. Are you kidding me?

There are, I would venture to say, many here in this church that I'm so privileged to pastor that actually remember when gas was less than a dollar a gallon. You young people are looking at us all weird and all like that. It's all right. Less than a dollar a gallon. I tell you, those Arabs with their oil.

[ Laughter ]

Well, that's snowballed into now, we need a great financial reset.

I find it very interesting, and this is Number 4. This was not deliberate. I'm not that clever.

But Number 4 on our list of ten is the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

As one aptly noted, it's kind of interesting because in Daniel's prophecy, the final kingdom is the fourth, the fourth. Coincidence? I don't think so because that fourth kingdom, that final

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kingdom is ten toes, iron mixed with clay, man mixed with machine, ten rulers, trans-humanism.

Pastor, come on, isn't that a stretch? Excuse me? Klaus Schwab has made it very clear in no uncertain terms that the Fourth Industrial Revolution is about merging man with machine. I'm convinced it's iron mix with clay. It doesn't mix, the final kingdom.

And now that snowballs into Number 5: Biometric digital IDs, digital passports. I saw a segment. About what – I forget the actual name of it. It's unimportant, but it's actually a digital cart.

So you go into the store. Now this, of course, presupposes there's actually items on the shelf to buy, but you put the item in the cart and it digitally scans that item and includes it, and you don't even have to check out. It's in real time. It's digital; everything's digital.

Well, this, of course, snowballs into what China has been doing for how long now, Number 6, the social credit score system.

This is what determines what you're able to do or not do, where you're able to go or not go, what you're able to buy or not buy. It's all predicated on - and not just your social credit score, your compliance - but also your climate score. We talked about this, your carbon footprint.

Oh, I see you pulled up in a Hummer. (Chuckling) I think you could probably buy a Butterfinger, but that's it. And the guy pulls up next to you and parks in a Prius, he can buy anything he wants. I know that's a dramatic way to illustrate it, but it's not too far off.

So then this snowballs in the Number 7, which we've been - talk about predictive programing - but the ball really started rolling in 2020. Do you remember when this all started in 2020,

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and all of a sudden now, cash spreads viruses? Signs on the window: We don't accept cash. It has to be digital. Oh, come on, this is the cashless global economy. No more cash.

And I don't know if you've noticed this or not, but again, this ball's been rolling for a while. They have these predictive programming, these commercials. And, you know, it shows the guy going in and he's pulling out his cash, and everybody's in the line going, Oh, you're slowing us down! And here's the other line: Everything's digital, beep, beep, gone.

In other words: Cash - Bad. Cashless - Good.

No more cash - after all, we have collapsed vis-à-vis a controlled demolition of the current economy to bring in this cashless global economy. And this snowballed into what is known as block chain technology. We are familiar with this because of cryptocurrency.

This block chain technology I just really simplified. I hope it's not an oversimplification, but it's a verification technology that once a transaction is verified, it adds the block to the chain, block chain. It verifies the authenticity and the validity of that transaction. And that technology is what they use for cryptocurrency, among other things.

So that transaction in the crypto world is by way of this block chain technology, and right now it's decentralized, which is the beauty of it, open source.

But about - well, it's again, this ball's been rolling too but more so recently it has really been speeding up because now they want to centralize it. So it's decentralized, but they want to centralize this so it'll be a centralized bank, CBDC, Centralized Bank Digital Currency.

Come on, I can see that coming from a mile away of course.

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And then that snowballs into global governance. It's a one-world economy. It's centralized, a centralized bank, a global banking system, one currency, and it's digital for the whole world.

Does this sound a little familiar? I sure hope so.

And then this snowballs into Number 10, lastly, global genocide and depopulation.

Wow, Pastor, you're such a doom-and-gloom guy!

It's the truth. It's the truth.

You know, I was thinking about even just with the food supply. You understand that they're spraying the skies and they're killing the food supply. You can't grow anything anymore.

GeoEngineeringWatch.org, Dane Wigington; I really encourage you to go to that website  
GeoEngineeringWatch.org.

In fact, during my time off around, it was actually around the 4th of July in Kailua you could see them spraying, these are unusual patterns. They're poisoning the land, the sea, and the people. It's true.

They're killing the food, and the food that is in the processing plants in those warehouses that got that far, well, they're just going to burn them down and blow them up. And they're still doing that. Did you know that? It's a fact. And don't take my word for it. Do your own research and see if what I'm saying is true. It is absolutely true.

This is a controlled demolition of the global economy, the global food supply because they want to bring in this global system.

What if I told you that everything on this list is in Bible prophecy?

What if I told you that everything I just read is specifically in the Book of Revelation?

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And when I say specifically, let me give you another example. I want to say it's about chapter 16. I could be wrong. But there's a prophecy when the judgments come, the wrath of God, God destroys those who destroyed the Earth. They're destroying the Earth. And God's going to destroy them.

But see, the Book of Revelation is a book about, again, I know, deeply profound, it's a book about revelation, revealing, a revelation of future events. That's what the Book of Revelation is.

When you get to Chapter 4:1, John is told to write, "Write these things that will take place after." Everything from Chapter 4:1 is yet future. And the Book of Revelation, the only book in the entire Bible of all 66 books, the only book that promises a blessing to those who read it, hear it, and take it to heart, and it's the only book Christians don't read.

Oh, it's too hard to understand, too much metaphor and imagery.

No, there's a lot of specificity.

Now please know that this was an abbreviated list that I painted on the prophetic canvas with a broad brush, and I did so in order to get to the point.

What's the point?

Here's the point. Not only was all of this foretold in Bible prophecy, the swiftness with which is beginning to come to pass is absolutely staggering.

I had an interest in Bible prophecy back in the early '80s, right after I came to Christ, started teaching it not there long after. I've always had a love for Bible prophecy. And here we are all these years later, some 40 years later. And I, as is my privilege to every week, I'm standing

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before you telling you things that again even five years ago I would have been hard pressed to point out as being as urgent as it is now.

I mean, I can talk about and teach Bible prophecy and teach about the end times and teach about the last days, but now it's like I'm speechless. That's a miracle unto itself I don't have any words.

Can I pose the question in light of all this?

If it's only been within the time span of about two years that we've seen so much so fast - and here's the question - how much time do we actually have left?

And don't think about it in terms, and this is what I mean, by the way, when I use phrases like "unstoppable" "unstoppable momentum," the "speed," the "swiftness."

Maybe I can illustrate it this way. Can you imagine that ever-growing snowball effect and ever-speeding up snowball just stopping? I - I can't. That's what I mean by unstoppable momentum. And the faster it goes, the faster it goes.

So in other words, yes, everything that happened, so much happened so fast in the last two years, but it's speeding up, so it doesn't stand to reason that it's going to continue at the same speed. No, it's faster. Faster.

And if you really think about it, it has to be.

So what are you saying? Well, I think we have no time left. That's what I'm saying. I'm becoming increasingly convinced that the rapture could happen at any time by virtue of the fact that so much has happened within such a short period of time.

Pastor, are you going to set a date?

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No, the date's already been set. I don't have to set it. I mean, well, I think we've, sadly - and I think we do err greatly when we throw the proverbial baby out with the bathwater, which you got to wonder how they came up with a metaphor like that. Did they really do that?

Let me explain. No, we don't set dates. The date's already been set. But let's not throw the baby of being ignorant of Bible prophecy and that date fast-approaching out with the bathwater of the date setters who have done great damage, sadly.

I mean, replete throughout Scripture - I could take you through a number of them - you already know them. But replete throughout Scripture, we're admonished not to be ignorant about these things. I don't want you to be ignorant about Bible prophecy. You need to know, you need to be ready, you need to be watching.

Many of the parables that Jesus taught that was the point of the parable, the lesson of the parable, the takeaway from the parable. Don't be ignorant!

How many times did the Apostle Paul, quite bluntly, I might add, said I don't want you to be - this is a very loose paraphrase. Stop being so ignorant concerning this? Why would he say that if they weren't ignorant concerning Bible prophecy?

Now, what do we see today in the body of Christ? I mean, I shouldn't even done that or gone there, but you talk Bible prophecy, you would think - I mean, they unfriend you, they block you, right? Can I get a witness here?

Oh, you're one of those? You better believe I'm one of those.

Okay, let me see if I can bring this in. I want to humbly appeal to your God-given ability to reason and think through one more question with me. Wouldn't it stand to reason that the

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prophetic snowball now careening down hill, growing as large as it has, as fast as it has, is about to reach its end?

I truly believe with all of my heart that it's not only about to reach its end, it's actually already at its end. I hope you know that it's not hyperbole when I say that the rapture is imminent. The rapture is imminent.

I think about what Jesus said, "Behold, I come at an hour you expect not." It's going to be so sudden.

When I say this, and the Lord knows my heart, I really, truly with all my heart believe this. The rapture could happen this afternoon, preferably before Second Service would be great, but (Chuckling) or not, before next month's bills come due. That'd be great!

I know I say it humorously, but seriously, the rapture could happen today, today! We're there. We're there.

And one last thing. And again, please hear my heart on this. I don't mean to be mean when I say this, but I'm having a terribly difficult time with people who talk like we're going to be here for a long time. I really personally, as a Christian, I've already, I mean, I'm like, you're not going to have to pull the plug on a life support machine. That plug is going to get pulled for you instead of you any time now.

I just have a hard time when I hear pastors talk about, you know, what kind of a world are we going to leave for our generation, the next generation? I'm thinking, well, I don't know what kind of world you're going to leave for the next generation, but I'm going to leave this world because we're the final generation!

[ Applause ]

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Okay, thank you for your patience again. You know, this is why we do this, right? This is why we do Prophecy Updates because of how close we are to the end and that we are at the end.

And this is why we end with the gospel, the good news of salvation in the person of Jesus Christ in a childlike explanation of salvation by way of the ABCs of salvation.

What's the A? The A and again, I need to preface this. This is not a formula. Please don't make this the only way. It's just a simple way. It's a template. It's a tool to equip you. But the A is for admit or acknowledge.

This is how I came to Christ. I came to the place where I realized I need Jesus. I need a Savior. Why? Because I'm a sinner. Because Romans 3:10 says, "**There is no one righteous, not even one.**" And Romans 3:23 says, "**All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**"

And when I realized that I had sinned against God, that I had transgressed and broken His law, His perfect standard of righteousness, I realized I needed a Savior. Because I had been sentenced to death, "**For the wages of sin is death [Romans 6:23] but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ, Jesus, our Lord.**"

That's the A; here's the B, very central, actually very simple, Believe. Believe in your heart that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Romans 10:9-10 says, "**If you believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead, you will be saved.**"

And the C, lastly, is for call upon the name of the Lord or confess with your mouth as Romans 10:9-10 also says, "**If you confess with your mouth, Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart**

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**that you believe and are justified and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved."**

And finally, Romans 10:13 says, **"All who call upon the name of the Lord will be saved."**

That's pretty simple, right? It's just a tool. It's just a template that you can use.

Well, I want to share with you today's "But God" testimony that comes from Mary Knowles, who writes, "A friend introduced me to your website, and I am so encouraged by the "But God" stories. I want to share one of our own.

I have four children, and between them and myself, we have 40 diagnoses to manage. My children are vaccine injured, so we did not even consider the C jab. [Unfortunately, oh, pardon me] additionally, our eldest, who is the most medically complex, is taking infusions the doctor specifically said she cannot have any kind of vaccine while having. Likewise, we as her caregivers cannot have any immunizations and be around her.

Last fall, she had a feeding tube placed after a diagnosis of gastroparesis. Unfortunately, we are no stranger to hospitals, and I have always been with her.

She turned 18 in 2020, which meant I could not be her advocate because often they would not let me into the ER with her unless she was having a non-verbal episode. One of her diagnoses is high-functioning autism.

In January, my daughter's feeding tube turned black and she would get sick each time she ran her formula. She could not push her meds through. We left for her hospital, which is about three hours away from our rural community. We expected her to be admitted overnight and have her tube exchanged the next day, being discharged that same day and then home again after a night in the hotel.

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Because she was to be admitted, they, of course, did a COVID test. She tested positive, asymptomatic. They took my daughter from me while we were in the ER and put her in an isolation room where she would stay until she tested negative, symptoms or not.

Because I had been with her, they put me in a wheelchair and wheeled me out to the parking lot to my car.

It was 4:45 a.m. when I pulled into a hotel parking lot, and my daughter called me to say that they wanted to give her medication in case she developed symptoms, but she felt the Holy Spirit told her no, so she declined.

She could not remember the name of the medication. I later found out it was Remdesivir.

I've since been told by nurses that some of them call it "run, death is near." I knew about the dangers of that drug, but my daughter did not.

I felt so helpless not being able to advocate for her like I had every time she had been in the hospital since she was a little girl. But God was her advocate.

Because she tested positive, they would not change out her feeding tube until she had a negative test. Because her feeding tube was defective, she was not getting any nutrition. She could still eat some foods orally, but it won't digest in hours. It takes days. She suffers from chronic nausea.

They gave her food that tasted spoiled. The mashed potatoes were so hard it broke her spoon. I began calling her nurses at 4:30 a.m. every morning so that I could talk to someone and repeatedly ask what they could do to give her nutrition. Their hands were tied by protocol. They gave her fluids, but nothing else. My heart was broken because my daughter was starving in a hospital.

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The tests were backed up so that when they tested her on Monday, they didn't get the results until Friday. So there was a 4 to 5 day lag time every time. I begged God to sustain her like He sustained Elijah, 1 Kings 19:8, among many other prayers.

As the days dragged on, I fought thoughts of planning her funeral. Her little brother began to talk about her in the past tense. But God sustained her! He sustained her for 15 days without feeds. When her test came back positive again on the 13th day, she had an autistic meltdown.

One of the prayers my husband and I prayed was that God would send a believer to advocate for her. I don't know who it was, but someone advocated for her, pushed protocol aside, well, I'm pretty sure they did because they tested her and got a result in one day instead of four or five. And on the 15th day, she finally tested negative.

They replaced her tube the next day. I was in the car the moment she called to tell me she would have her procedure. I called her boyfriend and his boss, told him to drop everything, and go with me to get her out of that hospital.

I took her to the hospital January 18th for an overnight procedure. I brought her home February 4th.

I had been tormented with and fighting thoughts of having to tell her siblings she wouldn't be coming home. I had nightmares of never seeing her again on this earth and planning her funeral. But God!

Instead of a funeral, God is giving us a wedding. She will be married in August to a wonderful young man who loves the Lord. We were mourning, but God gave us joy.

Thank you for being a light in this darkness, Mary Knowles.

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[ Applause ]

Why don't you stand? We'll have Pastor Leitu come up.

Thank You, Lord! (Sighing) (Singing) God, You're so good to us!

Always been so good to us, Lord. Thank You. Thank You, Jesus.

Lord, I'm just going to end by a simple prayer of thanksgiving and a simple request for anyone who has never called upon You and does not know You that today they would make the most important decision of their life for eternal life.

And for anyone who's really hurting and struggling today, Lord, strengthen and encourage, we pray, in Jesus' name. Amen.