

Enter
with *Enthusiasm*
& *Affirmation*



Purpose of Booklets

These are **Short Starter** Studies on **Sensitive** Subjects that **Stir & Stimulate** you toward **Biblical, Practical** Information that show that **Jesus has Great Answers** to some of life's **Hardest Questions**.

At www.FamilyBibleStudies.TIPS & the Family Bible Study App each booklet is a free download along with a short podcast explaining each booklet.

The website and App also has:

***Ten Terrific Tips to make
Family Bible Studies
Everyone's FAVORITE time of the week!***

The website and App also give lists of different **Categories** for the booklets as well as ways to use the booklets in:

1. Bringing **Friends to Christ**
2. As a Resource for **Pastor's Sermons**
3. **Small Group** Bible studies in a **Church**
4. As a **Resource** for Christian **Counselors**
5. Bible studies with **Friends** or **Co-workers**
6. For your own **Personal Growth & Bible Study**
7. Christian **Business Owners** to serve their **Customers** or **Employees**

What if I Don't Agree with What I Read?

There is always a good chance that I am wrong or that I have poorly communicated. I always encourage each person to research on your own. It may be that your research helps me and others to find God's heart more clearly.

We all seek His truth by the two Bible measures of:

1. what is **clear** and **consistent** in **God's Word** and
2. what bears the **Fruit of Jesus** in the lives of those who follow that application.

In heaven, all of God's purposes in God's Word will be clear and our actions will be aligned with God's Word. I constantly ask myself, what will we **act** like and **believe** when we are in **heaven**. This is my goal in these booklets.

"Thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven"

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Chap. 1

Warm Greetings Show That You See Me!

A young woman worked at a meat processing factory. On Friday, as she was finishing her shift at the factory, she entered into the cold room, a walk-in freezer where meat was stored, to inspect some of the meat.

Accidentally, the door closed behind her and locked. Since it was the end of the week, all others had left for home, leaving no one to let her out. What would her fate be?

She began screaming and banging on the door to get someone's attention. Her cries for help went unheard. The cold room contained thick insulated walls to keep the cold in, but they also prevented any inside noises from escaping.

She began feeling hopeless, the young lady began considering what the dire outcome could be if she remained locked in until Monday.

Five hours later, as hypothermia began to set in, the locked door began to open. The security guard, normally stationed at the plant entrance, walked in and brought her immediately into the warm room outside the cold room, taking immediate steps to warm her to combat the impact of the cold.

This was not his normal routine. What circumstances brought him to the freezer? Later she asked the guard this same question.

He replied, "I've been working in this factory for 35 years, hundreds of workers come in and out every day, but you're one of the very few who greet me every morning and every night after leaving work. Many treat me as invisible."

He continued, "Today, as you reported to work, like all other days, you greeted me warmly. But this evening after working hours, I curiously observed that I had not heard your *'Bye! Hope you have a great weekend. See you Monday'*

"Hence, I decided to check around the factory. I look forward to your greeting every day because they remind me that I am someone.

By not hearing your farewell today, I knew something had happened. That is why I was searching everywhere for you."

A Study of Students in School

A 2018 study comprising 203 students in 10 classrooms— claimed that teachers greeting students at the classroom door led to an increase in academic engagement.

In the study, when teachers started class by welcoming students at the door, **academic engagement increased** by **20** percentage points and **disruptive behavior decreased** by **9** percentage points—potentially adding “an additional hour of engagement over the course of a five-hour instructional day,” according to the researchers.

Christians Need TRAINING just like those in the World!

When you work in retail, they give constant training on the effect of a warm greeting. Studies show that **customers** who receive a **smile** are likely to **spend** up to **40% more**.

Jesus was emphatic that **Christians** should live at a **Higher Standard** than people in the world. In these verses Jesus **specifically referenced** the subject of the “**Greeting**”

*Mt. 5:46-47 If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are Not Even the Tax Collectors doing that?⁴⁷ And if you **GREET** only your own people, what are you doing **MORE** than others? Do Not Even Pagans do that?*

A warm greeting brings the **HIGHEST Reward** for the **SMALLEST** Amount of **Effort**. Learning to give a warm greeting is some of the best training any Christian can receive.

For 1-3 seconds of effort, you can completely change the atmosphere in an environment and dramatically impact the lives of everyone around you. This some of the most important training for every Christian.

*Acts 1:8 But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be **MY WITNESSES***

The Story of Sarah

Sarah worked in a high-stress, fast-paced office where people rarely made eye contact, preferring to communicate solely through email or instant messages. She felt isolated and, like many others, was considering looking for a new job.

Determined to make a change, Sarah decided to do one thing differently. **For a month, she made it a point to smile and give a warm "Good morning!" to every person she passed**, regardless of whether they were in her department or if they reacted warmly in return.

The Transformation:

Initial Skepticism:

The first few days, many people were taken aback. Some barely mumbled a response.

The Shift:

By week two, the mood in her immediate area lifted. People began to stop, look up, and smile back. The "cold" cubicle area started feeling like a community.

The Turning Point:

A senior manager from another department, who usually kept her door closed, started leaving it open. She later told Sarah that her cheerful mornings reminded her to be more approachable.

Career Impact:

Because Sarah was now viewed as a positive, approachable team player, she was included in a high-profile project she had previously been overlooked for.

The Result:

Sarah did not just stay at the job; she became the go-to person for cross-departmental collaboration, gained confidence, and saw her professional opportunities expand simply because she dared to be kind first.

Sarah's story has been repeated many times
in both work and home environments.

The common factor was that one person recognized
that our greeting is the **LOUDEST** message
of how we **REALLY FEEL** about each person.

My Elevator Story

In February 1978, I had just finished a six week internship at the Washington office of Senator Herman Talmadge, who was the long serving U.S. Senator from GA. To my surprise, they offered me a full time job after I finished my internship.

In this job, I would work in the office 20-30 hours a week and operate an elevator in the Senate Office building another 24 hours a week – 3 days a week on 8 hour shifts.

All of these Senate office elevators had a personal operator.

The times on these elevators were typical awkward silences for everyone. The first few days, I suffered through 8 hours of those awkward silences, delivering busy Senate staffers to their requested floor.

After a couple of days, I went to prayer, asking Jesus how he wanted to use me in this elevator job. I had only been a Christian for 7 months and this whole Christian thing was still very new to me.

When I asked Jesus how he wanted to use me in this elevator. I got the very clear impression that Jesus wanted me to greet each person as though I was greeting my best friend whom I had not seen in a year.

I began to greet each person cheerfully as they entered my elevator. I would look them in the eye the entire ride and ask kind questions to get to know them. I would ask their name, where they worked, how long they had been in DC, what they did specifically, how much they liked their work, what was the best part of their week etc.

Like Sarah in the previous story, it quickly moved from cautious responses to warm friendships. Within a few weeks, I knew almost everyone by name and was able to ask specifics about their day each time I saw them.

Within a month, I had multiple people tell me that they bypassed other elevators so they could ride on my elevator.

I wore a Holy Spirit dove on my collar and within two months had multiple people asking me about the dove. I was able to share with them that I loved Jesus and this dove reminded me that Jesus was with me all the time.

Within 2 more months, I was able to bring multiple people to church with me and help them draw closer to Jesus.

I only worked that job for 4 months when the Lord brought me back to Marietta GA, but those 4 months taught me so much about the power of a greeting.

Besides the impact it had on others, my greetings and caring of others made my elevator job a pure joy. The first two days of awkward silences, those 8 hours felt like it lasted 8 years.

After I learned to value others with a warm greeting and caring dialogue, those 8 hours felt like they only lasted 5 minutes. I loved the job and I loved those people.

That was my first experience of the power of a warm greeting.

1-2 seconds a day changes your entire future!

If you are willing, I ask you to carefully consider:

- i. the two main aspects of a powerful greeting and
- ii. how strongly the Scriptures encourage us to use the impact of greeting to impact other with the love of Jesus.

The Two Main Aspects of a Powerful Greeting

Enthusiasm

*2 Cor. 8:17 For Titus not only welcomed our appeal, but he is coming to you with **MUCH ENTHUSIASM** and on his own initiative.*

Enthusiasm is **Cheerfulness with Energy!**

Synonyms for Enthusiasm are *passion, ardor, zeal, fervor, warmth, and eagerness.*

We all remember the person who enters the room with volume, cheer and energy.

I have talked with many quiet, low key people who find it hard to enter a room with energy and volume. Those who paid the hard price to change usually did so for their children. Those parents decided that their need of their children exceeded their own discomfort at changing. That is called LOVE!

The Prayer for the “*In-Between*” People

- Some 20% of the people are just too stubborn and selfish to ever change. They just don't care enough about the people in the room to be willing to be loud and energetic.
- Another 20% of the people have a personality that naturally exudes enthusiasm.

Between those two groups are the middle 60%. Those 60% **Have a Desire** to give enthusiasm as a gift of Jesus' love to others as they walk in a room but also **Find it Hard** to be enthusiastic naturally.

For those 60% “*In Between*” people, there is a prayer that immediately changes your heart.

Right **BEFORE** you walk into the room, ask Jesus to **FILL** your **HEART** with **HIS love** for these people. When this happens, you will feel Jesus' energy, enthusiasm, passion, ardor, zeal, fervor, warmth, and eagerness flow through you toward those in the room.

Affirmation

1 Thess. 5:11 - "So **ENCOURAGE each other and **BUILD** **EACH OTHER UP**, just as you are already doing."**

Enthusiasm is nice, warm and fun, but it can also be self-centered.

When I was a youth pastor, it was a regular joke that some young person would walk into the room and loudly yell the words: "**ATTENTION, ATTENTION Everyone!**"

After the room quieted, the person would grin and say:

"I just Love Attention"

That was a fun joke, but it well illustrated that enthusiasm can often be used to demand that people focus on ME!

However, when you **AIM** your **Enthusiasm** toward an **AFFIRMATION** of a single person or a group, in 1-2 seconds, you have declared that this person or people have **GREAT VALUE** and are **VERY SPECIAL** people!

1. **"GOOD MORNING my BEAUTIFUL kids!"**
2. **"HI GORGEOUS"**, said the husband to his wife.
3. **"How is the BEST TEAM in the WHOLE WORLD Today?"**, said the co-worker to his teammates.
4. **"Hey there HARD WORKER"**, said the boss to the janitor

Take a second and say those four statement out loud. All of them took 1-2 seconds to say. Yet, in that 2 seconds, you communicated:

- I **SEE** you!
- You are **PRECIOUS & DEAR** to me.
- I **TREASURE & APPRECIATE** you.

Now it is important to realize that the **OPPOSITE** is also **True!**

Operating on a Relational DEFICIT!

You are LESS than NOTHING to me!

ALL of us know instinctively that how you greet someone is what you **REALLY FEEL** about them.

When your greeting is a **Begrudging Grunt** and you barely say “Hey”, you are clearly communicating to me that:

- I am **Less** to you than a **Bug** you step on.
- I am **NOT WORTH 2 seconds** of effort to you.

That relational deficit always comes back to bite you when tension, misunderstandings or stress arrive.

Now that I know how you really feel about me, I will **MATCH** your **Cruelty** when the time comes to:

- **Believe the Best** or
- **Believe the Worst** about you.

When strife, confusion, pressure, mistakes, errors, blunders, failures and lapses occur, I will know in advance that you are an **ENEMY** and **NOT a FRIEND!**

Why is my Life so Hard?

For these foolish untrained people, they live life confused. They constantly complain about poor treatment, lack of promotions, family strife and irritating interactions.

Because they are not willing to give 1-2 seconds of effort to the people in their lives, the deficit always comes due.

Chap. 3

In 5 words, you Know Boaz

God's word is so strong on this subject of Greeting with Enthusiasm and Affirmation.

After five short words you feel strongly that you **Know Boaz** and you **LIKE** him.

Ruth 2:4 - Just then Boaz arrived from Bethlehem and Greeted the harvesters, “The LORD be with you!” “The LORD bless you!” they answered.

Everyone can hear the volume. We can all see the smiles on Boaz's face and on his workers who greet him.

This Bible command to maximize these 1-2 seconds is so important that it is repeated many times in scripture.

*Rom. 16:16, I Cor. 16:20, II Cor. 13:12, 1 Thess. 5:26, 1 Pt. 5:14
GREET one another with a Holy Kiss!*

In our culture, we no longer have two men greeting each other with a double kiss on both cheeks.

However, the principle of making your **GREETING** a **Clear Message** of how you **VALUE** this person is still forceful, Biblical and transformational.

In Romans 16, Paul **personally greets 29** different people or groups and gives **each one a cheerful affirmation** in 13 verses.

Conclusion – TRY it, you will LIKE it!

The **More** you do this, the **Sweeter**, more **Blessed** and more **Joyful** will be your life. You will get **BETTER** with each greeting.

It will always be the best investment of 2 seconds you will make in your life.

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