

Living Proof: The Evidence of Transformed Lives...

Since the beginning of time, mankind has been in search of truth. Why am I here? What is life? Where did life begin? Is there a God? What is true and real? And, where is the proof? These questions of life have been asked by every generation to ever live. Our faith and eternity find their source and depend on the accuracy of the Bible. Indeed, all of our hope is written in Scripture.

Jesus said in John 17:17, "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."

But, how can we know for sure that it is true? The proof is abundant in the ancient texts, physical evidence in archaeology, and in the living proof of those who have been I witnesses. We will search all of this evidence and see that it is true. But, the best evidence is your life transformed as living proof that Jesus lives. Let's find that truth together!

The Bible is True – The Disciples Lives.

19 On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." (John 20:19)

17 And he said to them, "What is this conversation that you are holding with each other as you walk?" And they stood still, looking sad. (Luke 24:17)

14 But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them: "Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. (Acts 2:14)

18 So they called them and charged them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. 19 But Peter and John answered them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, 20 for we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard." (Acts 4:18-20)

27 And when they had brought them, they set them before the council. And the high priest questioned them, 28 saying, "We strictly charged you not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching, and you intend to bring this man's blood upon us." 29 But Peter and the apostles answered, "We must obey God rather than men. (Acts 5:27-29)

The Bible is True – The Church Lives.

42 And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. 43 And awe[a] came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. 44 And all who believed were together and had all things in common. 45 And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. 46 And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, 47 praising God and having

favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:42-47)

The Bible is True – Our Lives.

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect. (Romans 12:1-2)

20 I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. (Galatians 2:20)

Jesus is the only Way, Truth, and Life. Choose Him today!

The Second Mile: *Going Beyond Sunday*

Let's dig deeper together to see how God is calling and equipping each of us to reach the lost.

Monday – “The proof is in the pudding.” as my mom used to say. “Actions speak louder than words.” What do your actions and “pudding” say about your faith? How can that voice grow?

Tuesday – The disciples' actions, before resurrection, demonstrated fear and a lack of faith. When has your faith been tested and your actions demonstrated fear/doubt vs. faith/trust in God?

Wednesday – Later, after seeing Jesus alive in the flesh, the disciples actions changed completely. Now, you could stop them from speaking the name of Jesus. What was your “upper room” moment? What took you from fear to boldness...or, what is it going to take?

Thursday – They faced persecution and ultimately death yet they couldn't be quiet now. What is something that God has done for you that you just “can't be quiet” about?

Friday – Faith and actions must add up or one is fake. If words speak faith, but actions speak anger/doubt...that isn't true faith. Where do your actions need to match your faith better?