

Microwave Religion

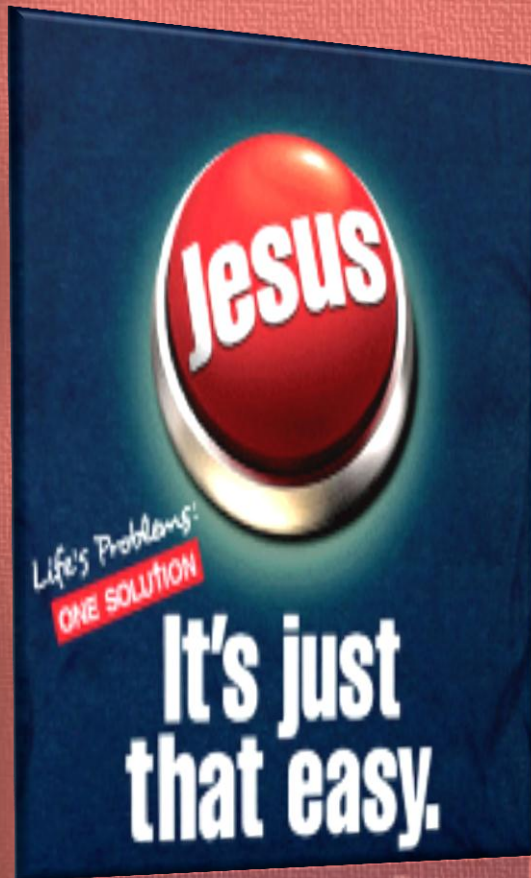


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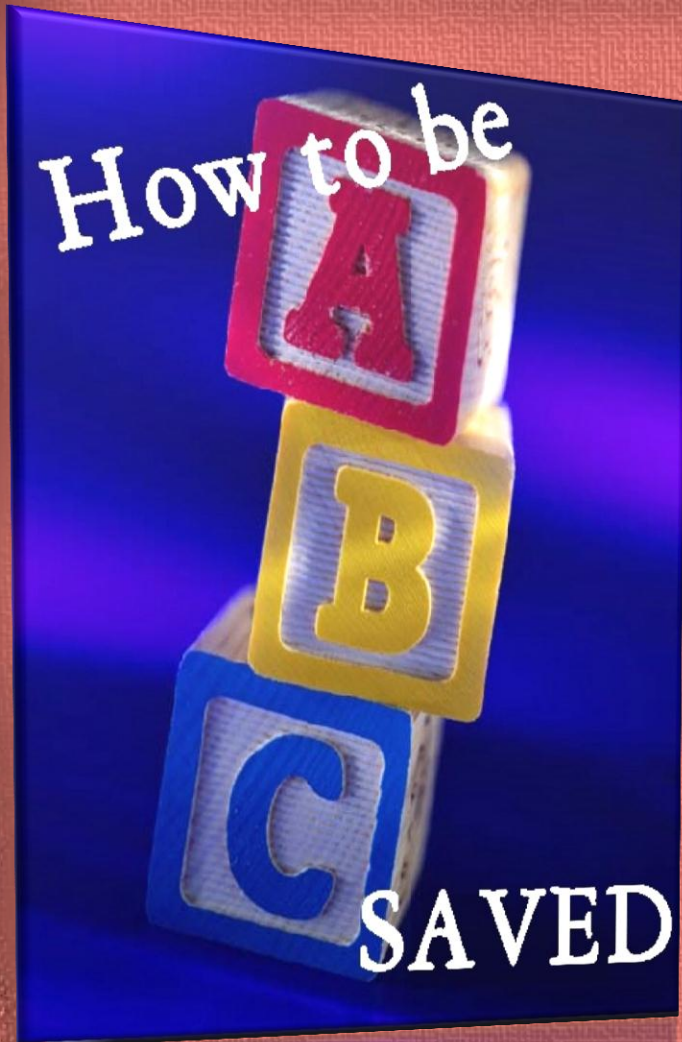
- ◆ We have many "conveniences": Computers, smart phones, high speed internet; email & instant messaging, GPS, remote controls, fast food, and microwave ovens.
- ◆ There's nothing inherently evil about conveniences, but living in such a world can lead us to develop unhealthy spiritual attitudes.

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- ✦ There are no shortcuts to being a Christian, growing spiritually and getting to heaven –
- ✦ You can't just "give it a try" and expect to become righteous, holy and godly - you have to commit all - give all - surrender all - and truly put the kingdom of God and His righteousness first.

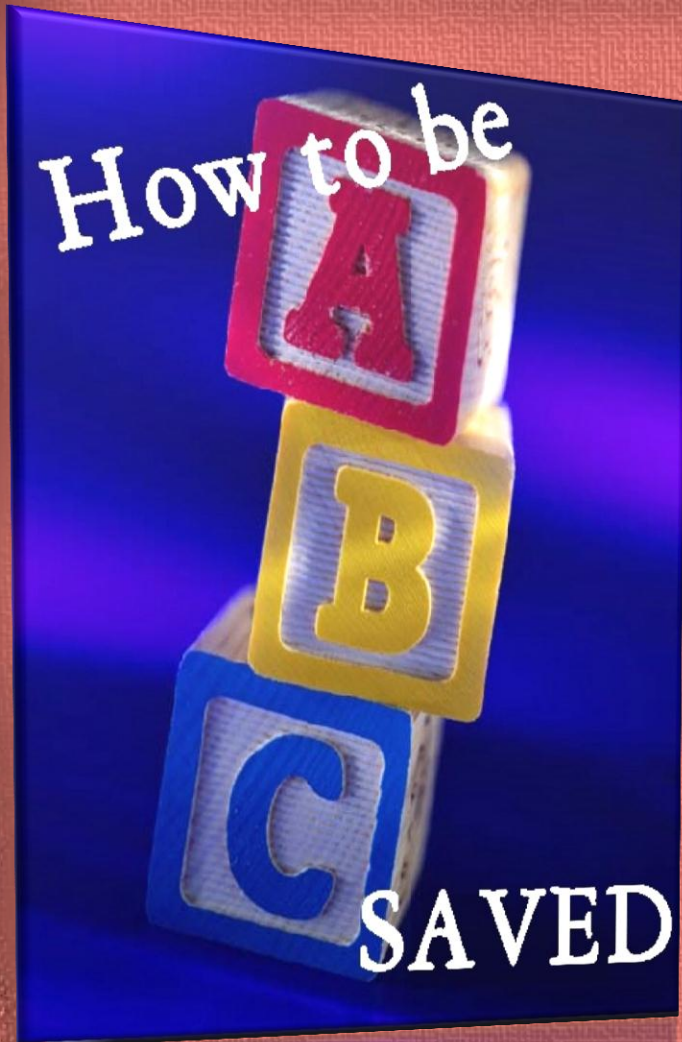
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Examples (Error):

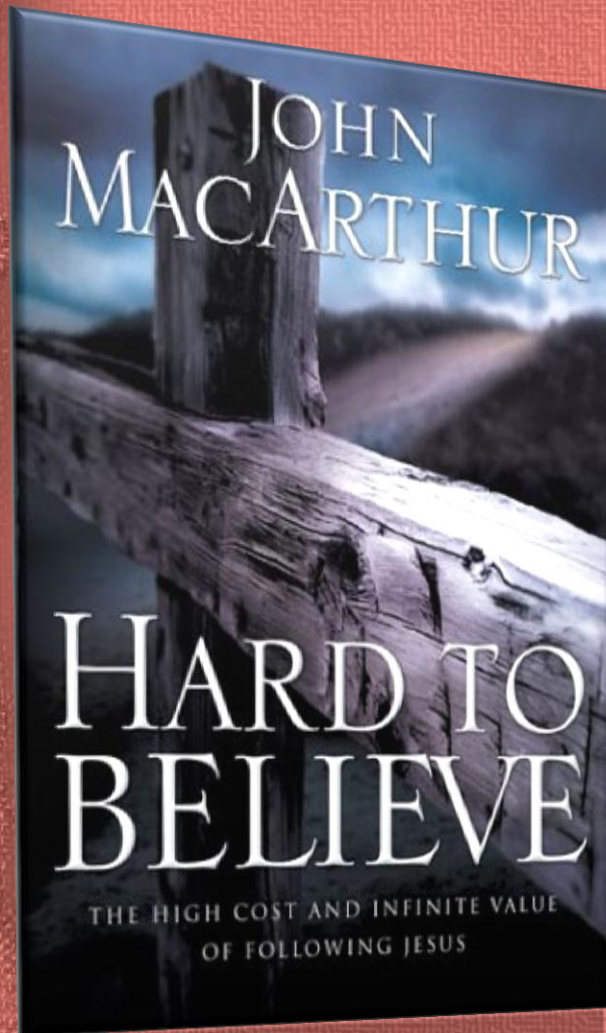
- ◆ Sinners prayer?
- ◆ Ask Jesus to come into your heart?
- ◆ Faith only?
- ◆ Pray through?
- ◆ Have a religious experience?

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- ◆ **Admit...** *fess up that you messed up . . . Rom. 3:23*
- ◆ **Believe...** *in somebody who loved you ... - John 3:16*
- ◆ **Confess...** *give God a shout out for handling the business of your redemption ... - Rom 10:9-10*
- ◆ **It's that simple...** *Admit, Believe, and Confess. . . . you can be sure that you are saved from sin and spiritual death.*

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- ✦ **Truth is contrary to human wisdom** – Isaiah 55:8,9; 1 Cor. 1:18,19
- ✦ **The way of salvation is straight, narrow & difficult** – Mat. 7:13,14
- ✦ **Requires complete submission & surrender** – Luke 14:26,27,33

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Believe

Repent

**We ALL Need To
Be Saved**

Is 59:1,2;
Rom 3:23; 6:23

Confess

Hear

Be Baptized

- ◆ **Luke 8:11; Rom. 10:17**
- ◆ **John 8:24; Heb 11:6**
- ◆ **Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30**
- ◆ **Mat. 10:32,33; Rom 10:9**
- ◆ **Acts 2:38; 1 Pet 3:21**

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Believe

Repent

Easier Said Than Done:

Confess

Hear

Be Baptized

◆ These steps, when truly experienced, result in **CONVERSION**

◆ Not merely a **checklist** – (The danger of trivializing) –

◆ The need for **sacrificial service!**

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Remission without repentance:

- ♦ **"Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" - (Luke 13:3; cf. Acts 17:30)**
- ♦ **Repentance is UNTO the remission of sins – (Luke 24:47; Acts 3:19)**
- ♦ **Hardest command – requires a change of mind that results in a change of behavior - (Luke 15:17-20; Acts 26:18-20; 2 Cor. 7:10; Matt. 3:8; Ezek. 18:20-32)**

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Righteousness Without Obedience:

- ◆ **Obedience of faith is UNTO righteousness** – (Rom 1:5; 6:16-18; 16:26; Acts 2:38; Gal 3:26,27)
- ◆ **Jesus is "the author of eternal salvation" to "all who obey Him" -** (Heb. 5:9)
- ◆ **Claiming to know God without keeping His commands makes us a liar!** - (1 John 2:3,4; 5:3; Lk 6:46)



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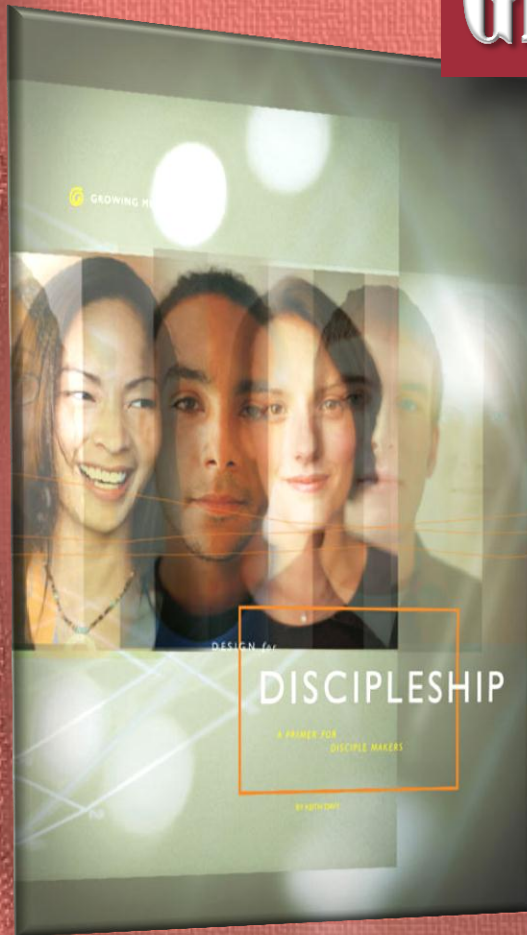
Holiness Without Self Discipline:



- ♦ **We live in a society that follows the mantra – “if it feels good DO IT” - But we must “deny ungodliness and worldly lust and live, soberly, righteous, and godly . . .” - (Titus 2:11-12).**
- ♦ **Paul said he had to “discipline” his “body and bring it into subjection, . . .” (1 Cor. 9:24-27)**
- ♦ **Comes w/ commitment & growth!!**

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Growth Without Diligence:

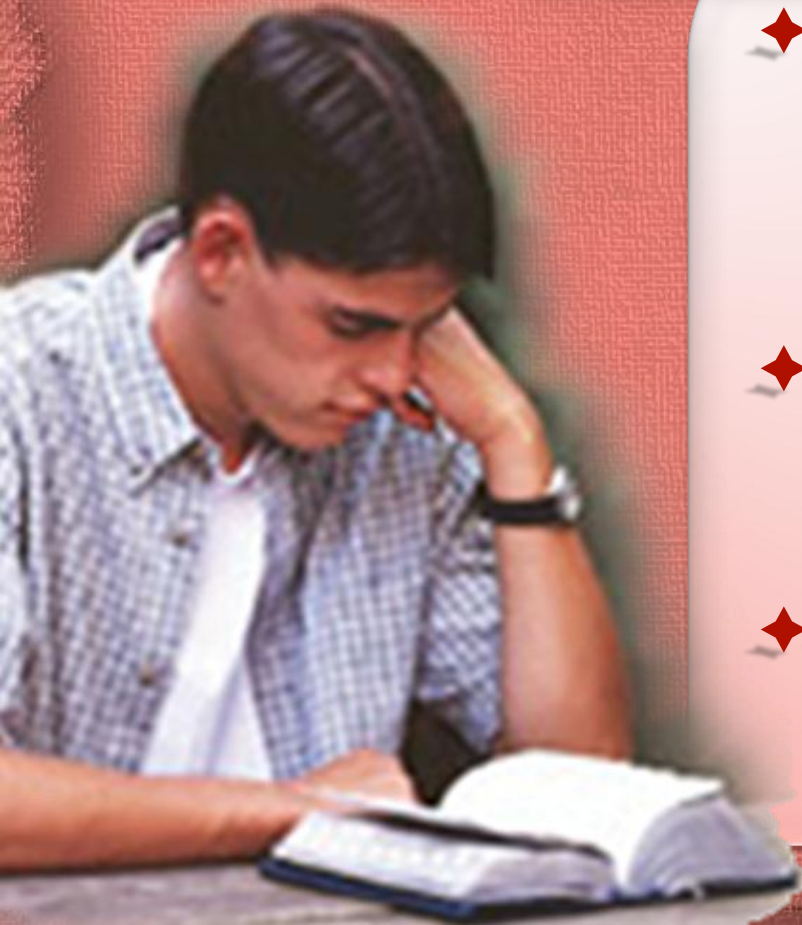


- ♦ **Too many Christians remain spiritual "babies" - (Heb. 5:12-14).**
- ♦ **We must "give all diligence" to "add" to our faith - (2 Pet. 1:5-10).**
- ♦ **Diligence in gaining knowledge that we "may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God;" – (Col 1:9-11)**

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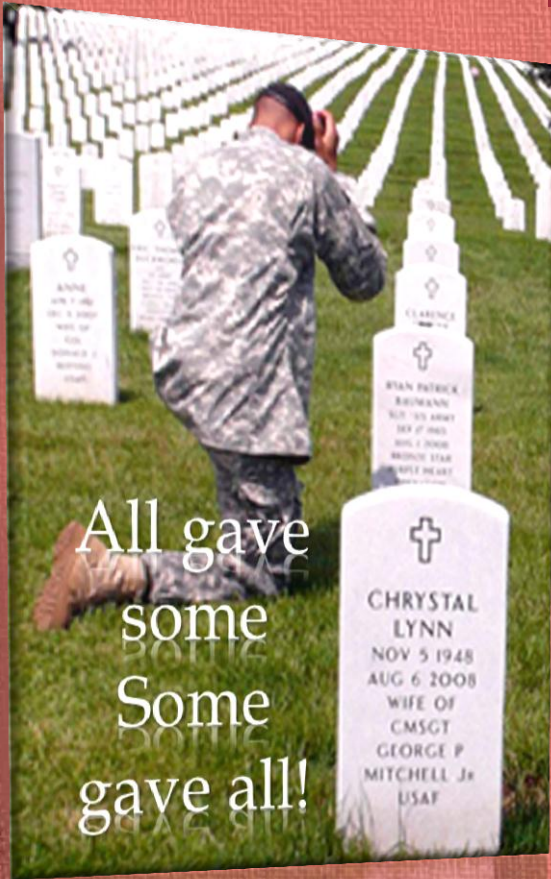
Knowledge Without Study:

- ♦ **Are you as Bible literate as you ought to be? - "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." (Hos. 4:6)**
- ♦ **We need to be diligent students of God's word (2 Tim. 2:15; Ps. 1:2,3; 19:1-14; 119).**
- ♦ **The ONLY source of saving faith & spiritual growth – (Rom 10:17)**



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Salvation Without Sacrifice:



- ✦ **Take up our cross and follow Jesus – (Luke 9:23)**
- ✦ **Giving up sinful pleasures and selfish desires – (Heb 11:24-27; Mat 5:29,30; Rom 6:6)**
- ✦ **Surrender worldly pursuits and pleasures to pursue the kingdom of heaven – (Matt. 6:19-34)**
- ✦ **Must Give ourselves to the service of God – (Rom 12:1,2; Phil 2:1-5)**

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Luke 8:11-15 (NKJV)

¹¹ "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God. ¹² Those by the wayside are the ones who hear; then the devil comes and takes away the word out of their hearts, lest they should believe and be saved. ¹³ But the ones on the rock *are those* who, when they hear, receive the word with joy; and these have no root, who believe for a while and in time of temptation fall away. ¹⁴ Now the ones *that* fell among thorns are those who, when they have heard, go out and are choked with cares, riches, and pleasures of life, and bring no fruit to maturity. ¹⁵ But the ones *that* fell on the good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep *it* and bear fruit with patience.

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