

Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life

by Bayless Conley

Copyright © Answers with Bayless Conley

I want to read to you some words of Jesus from John 14, beginning in verse one, John 14:1–6 NLT, He said,

¹ “Don’t let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ² There is more than enough room in my Father’s home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. ⁴ And you know the way to where I am going.” ⁵ “No, we don’t know, Lord,” Thomas said. “We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?” ⁶ Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.”

The last statement that we read of Jesus there, most of us have heard that probably numerous times. He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” I want to talk to you about that statement today. “I’m the way, the truth, and the life.” But we’re going to take it from back to front. Jesus said, “I am the life.” It’s the Greek word, Zoe. It means “the God kind of life. Life as God has it.” It’s translated as eternal life in the Scriptures. It’s why Jesus came.

Jesus Himself said in John 10:10, “The thief comes just to steal, kill, and destroy. I’ve come that they might have life and have it more abundantly.” A superabundance of the God kind of life and all that entails. Jesus actually defined the core meaning of this kind of life. He defined what it’s all about. In John 17:3, Jesus said, “This is eternal life that they may know You, the only true God and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.” At its core, eternal life is about a relationship with God, “that they might know You.” The word, know, is the Greek word used for “the most possible, the most intimate relationship that is possible.” “That they might know You and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent.”

Eternal life, at its heart, is about having a relationship with God and with His Son, Jesus Christ. That is mankind’s greatest need. We go all the way back to the garden. God created man and woman in His image and in His likeness. To have fellowship with them, He created a family. He would walk and talk with them. He makes this beautiful world and says, “Look, I give you dominion over it. Enjoy it. It is yours.” However, everyone say, “However.” God said, “However, there’s one thing that I claim exclusive right to. It is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. I alone set the guardrails. I alone say what’s good, what’s evil, what’s right and wrong, what’s sin, and what is not sin. These are absolutes, guys. If you ever violate that, if you ever try and take that to yourself, the day you do it, you’ll die.”

We read in the book of Genesis. It said, Adam and Eve wanted to be like God, deciding for themselves good and evil. “Who says I have to live within these guardrails? Who says these are absolutes? I’ll decide for myself if it’s right or wrong. What’s sin for someone else may not be sin for me. What’s wrong for them, may not be wrong for me. I can decide for myself.” They partook of that tree. God said, “The day you do it, you’ll die.” We read that they didn’t actually die that day. They lived for a long time after that. Did God get it wrong? No, He didn’t get it wrong. They actually did die that day. In the Hebrew text, in the original language, the word “die” is there

Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life

twice. God said, "The day you do that, you will die, die. You'll die a double death." They did die that day. They died spiritually. It doesn't mean they ceased to exist. It means to be cut off from God. To be severed from any relationship with God is spiritual death. It is separation from God. They did die that day. They died spiritually. As a result, they died the second death, the physical death sometime later. That profoundly affected all of us. Adam and Eve were the fountainheads of the human race. Romans 5:12 NLT says this,

¹² When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam's sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.

That state of separation from God spread to all humanity. Every person intuitively knows something is missing. That there's something wrong, and that there's a piece that is missing. We've all got that empty place within us. So people try and fill it with other stuff. Some try mind-altering drugs; man, I did that for many years. Believe me, it doesn't work. Some people try excessive alcohol, but it never fills the empty place. Some people try and fill that empty place with sex or with human relationships, and they'll run from man to man or from woman to woman.

Some people will try by getting more stuff. If I just get more money, if I get more things, if I get more, if I get more, then maybe it'll fill that empty place. It never does. Some people try through nature. Nature is beautiful, some even worship nature, but it won't fill the empty place. Others through art, some through literature, some even through religious ritual and ceremony. Just trying to find that crazy missing piece to the puzzle. As a young Christian, I was living down in Mexico and was camped out on a beach one night. I made a fire and was actually cooking some beans over the fire. Out of the shadows comes this guy and his dog, a homeless man, and his dog. I asked him if he was hungry. He said, "Yes." I had him sit by the fire; then I fed him and his dog my beans. We talked a little bit, and I asked him if I could read him something.

I had this tract in Spanish by a guy named T.L. Osborne. It was a long tract. It took about almost 10 minutes to read the thing. It was called *Salvación o religión*, Salvation or Religion. I'm reading this tract to him. Again, it took 8, 9, almost 10 minutes to read through the whole thing. Two sides, with small print. When I got done, I looked up at him. He's sitting across the fire, and there's tears rolling down his cheeks. I talked to him about what we'd read. Basically, talking about how people substitute religion and ritual, but salvation is actually about relationship. It's about knowing God. I said, "Would you like to know God this way?" He said, "Oh yes." He prayed with me and gave his life to Christ there at my campfire. Now, every person, as I said, intuitively understands that something's missing, but it's a God-shaped hole. Let me read on there in Romans 5:18 NLT says,

¹⁸ Yes, Adam's one sin brings condemnation for everyone, but Christ's one act of righteousness brings a right relationship with God and new life for everyone.

Verse 21,

²¹ So just as sin ruled over all people and brought them to death, now God's wonderful grace rules instead, giving us right standing with God and resulting in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Embracing Jesus and putting your trust in Him is the only way to receive eternal life. It is the one and only way into that kind of life. It's the only thing that will fill the empty place. It brings life here and heaven hereafter. I think John put it very succinctly. In 1 John 5:12 NLT, it says,

Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life

¹² Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have God's Son does not have life.

That is the truth. Now, Jesus is the life, but He's not only the life. He said, "I'm the life," but He also said, "I'm the truth." We cannot enjoy the life of Jesus if we reject the truth of Jesus. In John 8:31–32 NKJV, it says,

³¹ Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. ³² And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Jesus' truth is the Word of God. It is Scripture. Consider this in John 1:1 NKJV. It says,

¹ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Now, the word, *with*, is the Greek word that literally means "facing." It's talking about the pre-existence of Christ. The relationship that He had with the Father. In the beginning, the Word, Jesus, was with God and was facing God. They had a face-to-face relationship through eternity passed. The Word was God. Then it says in John 1:14 NKJV,

¹⁴ And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

Jesus is the Word made flesh. Think about this: the psalmist in Psalm 138:2 NKJV said,

² I will worship toward Your holy temple, and praise Your name for Your loving kindness and Your truth; for You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

God, You've magnified Your Word above Your name. If you claim to be following the one named Jesus, but you won't accept His Word as your final authority, something is amiss. The psalmist also said in Psalm 119:128 NKJV,

¹²⁸ Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right; I hate every false way.

All Your precepts, Your Word concerning everything, I consider it to be right. Whatever You say about anything, I consider to be right. What You say about money is right. What You say about marriage, I consider to be right. About relationships, about forgiveness, about work, about rest, I consider Your precepts concerning all things to be right. I take Your Word as my final authority on all matters of conscience and living. I've shared this story before, but I think it illustrates the point well. I was an assistant pastor for a couple of years at a church in Beaumont, California. A guy who started attending the church called me and asked if he could come talk to me. He said he had an issue. I said, "Sure." He comes over to Janet's and my apartment. I'd been there reading in one of the Gospels during the morning.

I was just pouring over one of the parables of Jesus. Just really studying it, and it was speaking to my heart. He comes in and sits down on the couch next to me, and starts talking about his issue. He's got stuff going on at work. I'm amazed while he's telling me what's going on at work. I'm thinking, "Man, this is exactly what I just read in this parable." In fact, he's using words as he's telling the story, the same words that Jesus used in the parable. I'm thinking, "This is going to be good." I said, "Man, you're not going to believe this, but I hope you do." I said, "Look at

Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life

this.” I opened the Bible and put it between us. I said, “Read it with me.” We started reading this parable, and he goes, “Whoa.”

He said, “That’s exactly what I just said.” He said, “That’s exactly what’s happening. That’s what’s going on.” I said, “Listen, it’s going to get better.” He said, “Really?” I said, “Yes. Let’s read this next part. This is what Jesus says to do if this is what happens to you.” He reads it, and he goes, “I’m not doing that.” I said, “That’s the solution. That’s what Jesus said you’re supposed to do when you’re in this kind of situation.” He said, “I’m not doing that.” I’ll never forget it. He got up and said, “I didn’t come all the way over here to listen to that.” He went out, slammed the screen door, got on his motorcycle, and tore off through the parking lot at about 80 miles an hour.

Now, friend, Jesus, He’s the life, but He’s also the truth. Just by way of contrast, I was just doing meetings a few weeks ago in Europe. I did some speaking in the Netherlands. There was a guy coming to meet me in the meetings. He’d contacted us beforehand, so I knew he was coming. He had been watching the broadcast. He was a drug addict and had other issues in his life. He got radically saved watching the broadcast, gave his life to Jesus, and got set free from drugs. Basically became an evangelist. He’s written an amazing book to help other people who struggle with addictions.

He’s going to come to the meeting, and he wants to meet me in person. He also let me know and said, “My girlfriend and I have been together for 17 years. We have three kids. I was listening to you teach about marriage and sex from the Scriptures.” Says, “I realized what the Scriptures say about sex. It’s just exclusive for a man and a woman within the context of a marriage.” He said, “We did everything backward.” Says, “We’re not married.” He said, “My girlfriend and I have chosen to remain celibate until we are officially married.” So, I knew that coming in.

I met with him, his girlfriend, and his lovely kids. He’s got three lovely small kids, and we’re talking in the green room for quite a while. He gave me a copy of his book. Then, like I said, I knew it was coming. He gets down on one knee, pulls out a little box with a ring in it, and proposes to his girlfriend. She says, “Yes, of course.” It was quite a moment. All of us got down on our knees, the little kids: him and his girlfriend, and me. I put my hands on them. We all prayed. It was really a bit of a sacred moment.

I know some people think, “Oh, that’s so extreme. Heck, they’ve been together for 17 years. They already got three kids. So what they’re not going to sleep together?” No, that is the proper, normal response of a heart that has received the life of Jesus. They also embraced the truth of Jesus. I’m not going to try and change His truth to fit my lifestyle. I’m going to adjust my lifestyle to fit His truth. John 14:23-24 NKJV,

²³ Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our home with him. ²⁴ He who does not love Me does not keep My words; and the word which you hear is not Mine but the Father’s who sent Me.

Listen, there is great blessing in embracing and obeying His truth. I had a dear friend who’s been in heaven for quite a few years now. They were members of the church: he, his wife, and his kids. He was a few years older than me. His kids maybe three or four years younger than me. Honestly, this guy was no doubt one of the sweetest, kindest, most generous-hearted people I’ve ever met in my life. I watched him behind the scenes. He was so kind. This kindness

Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life

and generosity oozed out of him. He just had time for everybody and was so loving, just amazing. Amazing. I was surprised when his kids told me this. The adult kids now say, "He terrorized us growing up. We lived in stark terror of him every day. If you crossed him in the slightest way, he would explode with these violent outbursts. He would cuss at us and scream at us. Invariably, there would be physical violence as well."

They told me, "We'd be on the road driving. Our whole family is in the car: mom is on the side, and we're in the back. The kids are in the back. Somebody accidentally goes over into his lane." They said, "He would force them off the road, get out of the car, and go over. The other guy is there in his car with his family in the car. He'd jerk open the guy's door, pull him out of the car, and beat him senseless, almost into unconsciousness. He'd leave him on the side of the road bleeding and barely conscious, get back in the car with the whole family, drive off, and never say a word." All the kids were just [Silent]. He says, "We were absolutely terrified of this man."

He told me himself one day, he said, "Pastor, I had a business partner that double-crossed me." Says, "I asked around, and I found a hitman, and I hired him to murder this man. When I met with the hitman, I had the money with me and was going to pay him. It was a done deal." He said, "But at the last minute, I pulled out because I just knew that it would be traced back to me, and I knew I'd end up in prison." He said, "That's the only reason I didn't do it is because I didn't want to go to prison." He said, "My heart was filled with hatred. It was full of murder, violence, unforgiveness, and bitterness." But his family said when he embraced Jesus, everything changed.

He just didn't embrace the life of Jesus. He embraced the truth of Jesus. Jesus said, "Bless those that curse you. Do good to those who hate you. Pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you." The Scripture says to forgive even as you've been forgiven in Christ. Said, "He embraced that truth." They said, "It changed the whole family. The whole atmosphere in our home changed. There was peace in our home. There was reconciliation in our home. It's affected us. It's affected our kids. It changed everything when he embraced Christ and embraced the truth of Jesus as well as the life of Jesus." Basically, I can't come to Jesus and say, "I want eternal life and all of the benefits that it brings, but don't talk to me about what to do or not to do. I've got my own ideas, Jesus, about what's right or wrong."

That sounds like Adam and Eve in the garden, doesn't it? Don't tell me what to do with my money or how I can express my sexuality. Jesus, I want eternal life, but the stuff You say about sin, judgment, hell, and the exclusivity of the cross, I don't accept any of that stuff. No, it doesn't work that way. You can't embrace and enjoy the life of Jesus if you reject the truth of Jesus. Listen to this, 1 John 2:4 TPT,

⁴ If someone claims, "I have come to know God by experience," yet doesn't keep God's commands, he is a phony and the truth finds no place in him.

Now, that doesn't mean a believer will never sin, nor does it mean that we will never struggle with temptation, but it does mean that the one that rejects His truth does not share in His life. Again, I want to emphasize to you that there is great benefit in embracing and obeying the truth of Jesus, whether it has to do with His promises or His prohibitions. Now, Jesus said, "I'm the life. I'm the truth." He also said, "I'm the way." Let's talk about the way of Jesus. We talk about way, and it speaks to us of direction. Certainly, we get that from what Jesus said in John 14, "I'm the way. No one comes to the Father except through Me." It's exclusive. It's the only way into a relationship with God. You cannot have a relationship with your creator unless you come through Jesus. Jesus said this in Matthew 7:13-14 NKJV,

Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life

¹³ “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”

It's narrow because Jesus is it. It's difficult for some because they don't like the guardrails of truth that God places there, but it is narrow. It's a narrow way, and it's a difficult way. It's the only way into the Father's family. It's through Jesus, who is the life and the truth. When we speak of, way, as well as denoting direction, it also denotes method. The way something is done. I think many of God's people don't know much about the way of Jesus. They may know about the life of Jesus and the truth of Jesus, but they don't know too much about the way of Jesus. His way was personal, relational, and unhurried. The way of Jesus is personal, relational, and unhurried. Jesus was never in a hurry. He always had time for people and was content to minister where He was.

We tend to be very program-oriented. Jesus was people-oriented. We tend to be very transactional when it comes to our interactions with people, but Jesus was very relational when it came to His interactions with people. Yes, He spoke to large crowds, but we find time after time where Jesus lingered with people, talking with them and sharing meals with them. He never seemed to be in a hurry, and yet, no one in the history of the world had more to do than He did. Even before He entered into ministry, if you think about it.

All right, Jesus, You're 20 years old. Don't You realize there's a lot of people that need healing? What are You waiting for? All right, Jesus, You're 21, come on, there are people that need to hear You preach. You should get out and do something. Why are You still working in Your stepdad's carpentry business? All right, You're 24 now, Jesus. Come on! Do You realize, Jesus, there are people here in Israel, people in Your hometown, who will die and go into eternity and never hear You preach if You don't get out and preach now?

He's 26. Jesus, what about all the sick? What about the people that are so confused? They need to hear You. They need Your touch. He's 27. He's 28. Jesus. He's 29. Finally, at 30 years of age, He enters into ministry. Even though He works hard, He doesn't rush around. He has time for individuals. He has time to train the 12 disciples. Even after the resurrection, you read the story: He meets two disciples, and their eyes are veiled. They don't realize it's Him. They're leaving Jerusalem, and Jesus starts walking with them on the road. They're going to Emmaus, seven miles away.

Jesus walks with them for two hours more. Asking questions, listening, talking to them, and then He goes in and sits down to eat with them. Jesus, this is after the resurrection, You got hours to walk on the road and talk to these two guys. What's going on? By contrast, the pace of many men and women that I know in ministry is build, build, build, go, go, go, don't stop, no time, take your work home with you, no time for kids, and no time for friendships. We got to go, go, go, go, go. No wonder so many people are fatigued and burned out.

Whether they're preachers, or are involved in some other sort of work. Friend, God is never in a hurry, but most people that I know are. Think about it: we talked about Adam and Eve and how their sin in the garden affected the whole human race. God says, “All right. This is a mess. I'm going to fix this.” He sends a Savior 4,000 years later. Jesus died on the cross and was raised from the dead 2,000 years ago, and God still hasn't wrapped this thing up. God is not in a hurry. Listen to the words of Jesus in Matthew 11:28–30 NKJV, He said,

Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life

²⁸ Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

If you were here last Wednesday night, Pastor Garrett preached a great message. Did it in a very unique way. We had a great time of worship as well, and he shared these very Scriptures from the message, which is actually a paraphrase that tries to just bring the meaning of what's being said in the Scripture into modern day language. It puts Jesus' words this way (Matthew 11:28–30 MSG),

^{28–30} “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you'll recover your life. I'll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won't lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you'll learn to live freely and lightly.”

I've got a word for you, actually, two words: Slow down. I guarantee you will not lay upon your deathbed wishing you had spent more time at the office. You will not. We were having our home tented once because of termites. The kids were all small at the time, and I'd promised to take Spencer, our youngest son, fishing. I remembered after they'd tented the house that I'd forgotten the fishing poles in the garage.

I go to the guy there. I said, “Hey, is it too late? Can I go in the garage and get something?” He says, “What do you need to get?” I said, “I left a couple of fishing poles in there, and I promised to take my son fishing.” This guy very sarcastically said, “Oh, it must be nice,” and he kind of hacked me off. I turned on him and said, “Listen, it is not a luxury that I take my boy fishing; it's a necessity.” He hung his head and said, “Yes, I missed my kids growing up. I missed their whole childhood because I was so focused on work, and now I'm not close to my kids to this day.”

He said, “Yes, you can go in there, get your fishing pole, take your boy fishing, and have a good time.” I was on a trip once to the Sea of Cortez with some friends. We were there for a week on a boat, and there were about 20-something guys on there. There was this one guy who was there, and he was sort of, you know, just had the air of being kind of a macho guy. He's a tough guy. He's got his armor on and just trying to put this air that he's a real man's man and he had his kid with him. The kid was, I don't know, 13 or something. Anyway, one afternoon, he's leaning over the railing of the boat by himself, and I went up to him. I said, “Hey, I just want you to know, I think it's really cool that you brought your son on the trip.” I said, “He'll never forget it as long as he lives.” I said, “You're being a great dad doing this.” I said, “It's really important and I just wanted to commend you for doing this.”

All of a sudden, all his armor fell off, and he started to cry. He said, “Yes, my old man never had any time for me. He was always chasing the almighty dollar.” Then, all of a sudden, he realized that his armor had fallen, and he's teary-eyed. He turned around and made a beeline for the other side of the boat. Just walked away from me because he was embarrassed at his tears. You think about it, and here's this grown man, and he's carrying these wounds with him into adulthood because Daddy never had the time. Found other things far more important.

You've probably heard me talk about it, but a friend of mine who was in the meeting shared with me that there was a well-known preacher; many of you probably would know who he is. He was sent to prison for a few years for breaking some laws. When he got out, he was invited to speak

Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life

at a meeting to a group of pastors and ministers. My friend was in the meeting, and he's the one that relayed the story to me. This guy said, "It was about my fourth year in prison. My son turned 18, and he was allowed to come into the prison unchaperoned for the first time." It was a minimum security facility. He said, "We spent the day in the prison walking around the prison yard, sitting on a bench, talking, and eating prison food.

I took him into the shop and showed him where I worked. We spent the whole day in prison." He said, "At the end of the day before my son left, he said, 'Dad, this has been the greatest day of my life.'" I said, "What? What are you talking about?" He says, "Dad, this has been the greatest day of my life." He says, "What do you mean? You spent the day in prison with me?" He said, "You don't understand, Dad."

He said, "You were always so busy, and I know it was important. You're busy with ministry, and you had this meeting and that meeting. You had to go here and there, and I know how important it was, but all I ever wanted with you, my whole life, is to have you for one whole day. This is the first time in my life I've ever had you for a whole day to myself. It's been the greatest day of my life." Then he turned to those men, those ministers, in that meeting, and he said, "I had to go to prison to give my son a day of my life." Solomon said, "They made me the keeper of the vineyards, but my own vineyard, I have not kept."

My friend, Jesus' way is something we must learn. Jesus said, "Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me." His way is something we must learn. Jesus' truth is something we must embrace and obey. Jesus' life is something that we must receive by faith. The Bible says, "By grace, you are saved through faith, not of yourselves. It's a gift of God, not of works lest anyone should boast." There's nothing you can do and nothing I can do to earn it. It is the hand of grace reaching out and offering this life freely, and it's received by faith, by putting our trust in Jesus Christ. I think just from what we talked about today, we realize we can't say, "I want eternal life, but I don't want Your truth." It doesn't work that way. The Bible says, "If you believe in your heart, God raised Jesus from the dead, and confess Him with your mouth as Lord, you'll be saved."

Lord means boss. Lord means authority. Lord means I died to my rights of independent living, and I submit myself to You. Those are the terms that we come to Him through. He said, "Anyone that comes to Me, I will not turn away." Doesn't matter how dark your past has been. It doesn't matter how shameful your past has been. God has a new life for you. If you put your trust in Jesus, He can change everything. Maybe you're like the guy that I talked about in the message, that member of the church who was so violent and bitter and literally had murder in his heart. Jesus changed it all. He can change everything for you. Receive His life by faith. Embrace His truth and obey it. Learn His way.

Won't you bow your heads and close your eyes for a moment if you would? Whether you're on the plaza right now, sitting in a hotel room somewhere, sitting in your living room with your family, or by yourself on a couch or a chair. Maybe in the kitchen, you're washing dishes, and you're half distracted, but I just got your attention. I want to give you an opportunity to pray with me. I want to lead you in a prayer where we'll put our trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and as our Savior. I can give you the words, but only you can tie a sincere heart around them but if you'll be sincere and speak the words to God, He'll answer you. He'll meet with you.

I'm going to do something in a moment. I'm going to count to three. If you want in on the prayer, I'm going to ask you to lift a hand when I get to three. The reason for that is not because you need to lift your hand. I just think that even an act that simple can help you because the Bible

Jesus: The Way, the Truth, and the Life

says faith is expressed through actions. Even something as simple as lifting your hand, I believe, can help your faith begin to move toward God. Look at it this way. Your heart's reaching up to God. Your hand lifted is just an outward expression of what's going on in your heart. I'll acknowledge any hands, and I want you to do it out on the plaza. If you're in your home or wherever you might be, it wouldn't hurt if you did it as well. I'll acknowledge any hands that are up; you can put them down, and then I'll lead you in a simple prayer together. One, I don't think it's coincidental that we're together today. God sees you. He loves you, and He wants you to know Him too.

If you're a prodigal son or a prodigal daughter, you once loved the Lord, you once had a fire that burned brightly, but if you look around you now, you've just got a few embers left, and they threaten to go out. Prodigal son, it's time to come home. Prodigal daughter, it's time to come home. Backslider, it's time to repent, and no, you don't have to fix everything before you come to Jesus. If you can fix it without Him, then you don't need Him. But if you'll come to Him with a humble heart and a believing heart, He will help you. He will help you. You ready to pray? Three, if that's you, just put a hand up all over the auditorium. I want to say yes to Him. Quite a few hands. Looks like every section we got hands. That's awesome. Even on the plaza, put your hand up. All right, go ahead and put your hands down. Maybe put a hand on your heart, and let's pray together. Just say it out loud. Just say,

Oh God, I come to You right now. Thank You for loving me so much that You would send Your Son to become my substitute. To die in my place and to pay the penalty for my sins. Jesus, thank You for going to the cross and dying for me. I believe You were raised from the dead, and I ask You now to come into my life. I confess You as my Lord and Savior. I receive Your life by faith. I embrace Your truth. Help me learn Your way. It's in Your name, I pray. Amen. Amen. So good!

Copyright © Answers with Bayless Conley