

88 For now... and beyond

In the book “Just A Little prick” I set out my perspective for confronting the vaccination debate, and indicated that, whether we like it or not, any health topic fits between birth and death and impinges on everything in between; that sickness, disease and especially death are not welcomed, and that a solid belief basis, or “foundation”, that we can confidently commit our lives to, is essential. I stated that I know where I stand because I know what my convictions are based on. Without that I would have every reason to be scared stiff of having to face the “what ifs” of life, especially when my decision-making resulted in a situation I didn’t like but had to cope with. **THE “WHAT IFS” APPLY IRRESPECTIVE OF THE STAND WE TAKE ON HEALTH ISSUES.**

I did not attempt to specifically detail my personal beliefs, and in chapter 81, I touched on the reasons why I was reluctant to do so. The issue is a very personal one, and I respect an individual’s right to have freedom of choice in what they believe. After all, we were made with the ability to exercise free will.

My concern is that many people do not have a solid foundation on which to base their lifestyle, or they feel that they have plenty of time to handle that sort of thing, and consequently leave the real need until it is too late. For that reason I offer my own experience for anyone to read if they wish to.

The choice is for you, the Reader, to make. What follows involves a personal relationship with the Creator God who is revealed in Jesus Christ. No hocus-pocus churchianity business! It deals with some inescapable facts, and from my experience of over 60 years, it works!.

If you feel uncomfortable with this, or you have a “faith” that will completely carry you through **all** of life’s circumstances, and even beyond them, or you don’t feel the need for any of this stuff, then please don’t read any further. I respect your decision.

However,

if you are interested,

or curious,

or are really seeking "something" you haven't got,

then maybe

you

can

risk

turning this page...!

Life makes no sense without God who created all things by the word of His power, and who has a plan and purpose for all that He created and sustains.

If there is no Creator whose on-going handiwork is visible for all to see every day through the laws that hold everything together, and which are accepted without question, then in its place must go the evolutionary theories of Chance. Guarantees have to be replaced with the uncertainty of maybe, perhaps and the 'I don't know...' or 'I think...'. The manufacturer's manual has the assurance of the designer. A warranty which we can either accept or reject¹. Who do you turn to if you and the world just 'happened'?

God identified Himself with humankind in the person of Jesus Christ, and can be found and personally known by anyone who really and truly seeks Him, but unfortunately the systems and structures of churchianity and other "religions" often get in the way. The Bible explains how to find and receive the gift of salvation – to experience a "new birth" – which leads to eternal life, and the Holy Spirit has been given to lead us into the Truth and to teach us². Countless books, tracts, sermons and other presentations have been produced to "help" people decide for Christ. How helpful they are depends on the individual and how hungry and thirsty they are for reality. I have had Jesus Christ as my constant companion for over sixty years and have never regretted for one moment my decision. My passion is to help others to know what I know. I will not attempt to explain "the fine print" in written form in this chapter. Personal interaction is much more satisfying and effective and I always welcome these opportunities.

Let me return to the issue as stated at the beginning of this chapter. In many areas of life, **fear** is an underlying factor that has to be dealt with. This is especially true when dealing with health matters. One of the most common is fear of death itself, or fear of how and when we might die.

There are at least three **facts** that confront us all. They cannot be escaped no matter who we are.

1. Humanly speaking, each one of us is born to die. Death is inevitable – **unless** some supernatural event removes us from this world without dying³.
2. Death can take place at any stage in life – from infancy to old age.

¹ *Just a Little Prick*, chapter 7, page 61.

² The Bible. Many references could be given but John's gospel, chapter 3 verses 1 to 17 is well known. See also John's Gospel chapter 16, verse 13.

³ See the Bible: Enoch (Genesis 5:21 – 24 and Hebrews 11:5); Elijah (2 Kings 2:11) and an "end times event" described in 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18)

3. *Death can be sudden – without any warning; totally unexpected.*

Surely it is plain common sense to be ready and prepared for such an event, but also to live our lives usefully as long as we can – as far as possible, living one day at a time.

To have a belief structure, a solid foundation, convictions, call it whatever, or to choose to have nothing, is a personal responsibility, but it will affect the way each person lives. Exercising choice should surely require a commitment to look for the truth – to sift through the red herrings, the “guarantees,” the “claims” and all the clamouring voices that promise quick-fix solutions and plausible answers, until you find what rings true within your innermost being. That means seeking until you find – digging beneath the surface, rummaging through the clutter of “approved information”, the weight of public opinion, and pursuing lonely paths, because strange as it may seem it is under obstacles of this sort that the real “gold” is to be found. Glib attitudes should be viewed with suspicion. Even the majority view may not be correct.

The “position” a person takes on any issue, will be based on “pre suppositions”, i.e. to have a prior acceptance that something is true without requiring proof. These can be called beliefs or convictions. To prove something, is to establish the validity of it, which may be done by demonstrations or tests, or to know from experiences or observations that it is true. That leads us into principles, or basic general truths, which are moral rules to guide personal conduct. I have no hesitation in committing my life to the following, call them what you like:

- * There is a God who reveals Himself in Jesus Christ.
- * He is the Truth – He cannot lie.
- * I am God’s workmanship, wonderfully made according to His design and purposes.
- * In Him I live, and move and have my being.
- * I can know Him personally and intimately because the work of Jesus on the Cross was totally complete and totally finished. I can add nothing to it.
- * I know who I am, what He has made me and where I am going to spend eternity.
- * I have a hope that is steadfast and sure – an anchor that will hold in the storms of life.
- * My eternal destiny is infinitely MORE important than any other issue that arises in this life, no matter what it may be. Jesus Himself said, “What does it profit

a person if he gains the whole world and loses his own soul?" As an old song says, "I'd rather have Jesus than anything this world affords today."

Herein lies the reason for a faith that will be sufficient for all the "what ifs" that may have to be faced in daily living. It doesn't eliminate making difficult choices and decisions, or the removal of times of hardship, suffering and sorrow, but it makes possible a more than adequate Burden-bearer whose invitation to carry anything off-loaded on to Him is only dependent on the transfer actually taking place – a test of faith.

This is the CRUNCH POINT!

I have really stuck my neck out because it opens the way for people to ask some very sticky questions. I know! Every day the news media reports on human tragedies of all sorts.

E-mails come into our home asking for help on related health and family issues. They can so often be heart-breaking stories – man's inhumanity to man in spite of all the sophisticated systems in place which are designed to ensure justice, and safeguard our rights and freedoms.

You can feel totally overwhelmed and seemingly powerless to do anything, and those who are suffering are shattered.

Is my faith adequate for these situations and circumstances?

Can anyone have such a faith?

The answer is an emphatic YES. Countless numbers have proved it to be so.

There was a time when many who followed Jesus found the going too tough – there was a cross ahead – and they left Him. Jesus asked His closest followers if they would also leave. Their reply was, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You ALONE have the words of eternal life".⁴

Listen to someone else in his trouble: "Hear my cry, O God, attend to my prayer. From the end of the earth will I cry to you, when my heart is overwhelmed, lead me to the rock that is higher than I, for you have been a shelter for me and a strong tower..."⁵.

And these beautiful words:

"In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. For I am persuaded that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any

⁴ The Bible: John's Gospel, chapter 6, verses 66 – 68.

⁵ The Bible: Psalm 61: 1–3.

other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Jesus Christ our Lord.”⁶

NOTHING can separate me from my Lord and Saviour. NOTHING! Of that I have absolute assurance.

But does all this just “happen”? Is it something you only switch into when the need arises – when the panic-stations’ alarm bells begin to jangle?

I am talking about a chosen lifestyle that begins with a careful weighing up of all the “pros” and “cons” of being different in every area of daily living. When the point is reached where it can be said, “My lifestyle will be based on this foundation. These are the ‘pre suppositions’ for the ‘position’ I am going to take. I know other people, including some of my friends, will disagree with me, and I shall be going against the flow of the majority. How can I do it, because I can’t do it in my own strength, and I’m scared of the ‘what ifs’?”

The question has to be asked, “Do I have a ‘faith’ – a belief basis – that will see me through every day, no matter what?”

I have explained what I have found to be the only answer to that question. With the world the way it is today there is no time to wait for something to sort itself out. I have proved in my experience that such a “faith” can be practiced every day as you walk and talk in the company of the living Lord Jesus Christ. **Everything** can be checked out with Him. In the wisdom and strength He gives, my job is to trust and obey.

My God is not a convenience to rush to for a quick-fix when all else fails, and then be forgotten until the next crisis.

There is such a lot more that I could say. If your hunger for the things you have been reading is still driving you on to the point where the pangs are unbearable, and you would like to contact us, please do. You may even be able to find someone else who echoes these words, living nearby.

The Great Divide started with an Ernest C. Kerr. Along the way he discovered that it’s not good for a man to be alone. He gained an Anne Kerr. The truth is that those who become **earnest seekers** will, among other things, gain **an anchor** which **will** hold firm in the storms of life.

We are talking about PRICELESS GIFTS.

May we have the privilege of helping you to prove that those who earnestly seek **will find?** It will change your whole lifestyle!

⁶ The Bible: Romans, chapter 8; verses 37 – 39.