

The Secret to a Worshipful Life Part 3

“He started out a typical teenager who was full of doubts about God and so one Sunday morning he began to go to Church services to find the answers. Due to a snowstorm he could not go to the Church he wanted to so he had to go to another small Church in the area. It just so happened that the Pastor of that Church did not show up due to an illness and so a laymen went to the pulpit and began to preach.

He preached on Isaiah 45:22, ‘Look to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth.’ He simply stuck to the text for the simple reason he had little else to say. But for some reason, the laymen fixed his eyes on this doubting teenager that he never saw before and said, ‘Young man, you look very miserable. And you always will be miserable, miserable in life, and miserable in death, if you don’t obey the text. But if you obey now, this moment you will be saved.’

The once doubtful teenager did, and it didn’t take long to see the fruit of his salvation. He began to pass out tracts and then later witness to people of Jesus. Then he began to teach a Sunday School class and soon he preached his first sermon at the age of 16 leaving people utterly amazed at how a teenager could preach the Word of God with such power.

When he was 17, he became the pastor and then at 19 he became the Pastor at another. Before he was 20 years of age he had preached over 600 times. In his first Church he began with 100 members where it soon grew to 10,000.

In addition to his regular pastoral duties, he founded Sunday schools, churches, an orphanage, and a Christian College. He edited a monthly church magazine, promoted literature distribution, published more than

3,500 sermons 63 volumes of material that stands as the largest set of books by a single author in the history of Christianity.

In his preaching, he had a great love for souls. Christians were fed and corrected with such words as, ‘There is dust enough on some of your Bibles to write damnation with your fingers,’ and the lost were pleaded and begged to come to Christ.

And because of this he was considered to be the greatest preacher of the age. His name of course was, Charles Haddon Spurgeon.”

Now folks, I don’t know about you, but I’d say ol’ **Charles Spurgeon** had a pretty cool life as a Christian, you know what I’m saying? In fact, so much so that I’d say **now that** is A Life Worth Living For, amen? But that’s right folks, as we’ve been seeing, **we’ve got a problem**. You see, even though God’s the same God and we’re just as much His children as Charles Spurgeon is most Christians read the Bible in one hand and take a look at their life in the other and say, “Man, something’s missing here. Something doesn’t match, something’s not right. What’s going on? Why do these people like Charles Spurgeon get to have an amazing walk with Jesus Christ and here I am keep fumbling around in the dark? I don’t have a life worth living for. I’ve got a life worth giving up!” But people of God, I here to tell you, it doesn’t have to be that way! Wake up! This is the incredible news. That kind of life, a life worth living for like Charles Spurgeon had, is available to every to every single Christian!

Therefore, in order to help you and I stop living lives worth giving up and start living lives worth living for, we're going to continue in our series entitled just that, "**A Life Worth Living For.**" And what we're doing is taking a look at **four different keys** that I believe are absolutely pivotal if we're ever going to have lives like Charles Spurgeon had.

And we've already seen how the **first key** that unlocks **A Life Worth Living For** is when you and I finally learn **The Secret To A Worshipful Life** not a cry baby whiny complaining life. And so far we've seen how the **first affect** of complaining is that **It Affects You** and then last time the **second affect** is that **It Affects Others**. And there we saw it affects others by **Turning Them Into an Object of Blame** which locks us into a life of sin and then if you don't get a handle on it, it then spreads like a poisonous gangrene by **Leading Others to Do the Same** which causes destruction wherever you go. And people, once you do that, you just tricked into destroying any chances of having A Life Worth Living For.

But folks, believe it or not, that's still not the only harmful affect of complaining. The **third affect** of complaining is that **It Affects the Gospel**. And the **first way Complaining Affects the Gospel** is that it gives a **False Representation of a Christian**. But don't take my word for it. Let's listen to God's.

Philippians 2:5-15 “Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Therefore, my dear friends, as you have always obeyed—not only in my presence, but now much more in my absence—continue to work out your salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God who works in you to will and to act according to his good purpose.

Do everything without complaining or arguing, so that you may become blameless and pure, children of God without fault in a crooked and depraved generation, in which you shine like stars in the universe.”

Now folks, before I bust in to explaining the text, I want to first give us a history lesson. Did you know that in history, certain things identified people in the public arena as to who they were and what they did for a living? For instance, a person would put a wood chip behind their ear when they went out into the public eye to identify to others that they were a carpenter. Another person would stick a needle in their tunic to let others know that they were a tailor. Or a person would wear colored rags so that everyone knew they were a dyer of clothing. And according to our text, as a Christian, what mark should distinguish us in the public eye that we are true representative of Jesus Christ? Well, what did our passage tell us? By doing

everything without complaining right? And by the way, how much is everything? Does it mean to try not to complain only once in awhile, or just give it that good ol' college try, or whenever it feels right? Nope. It means **all** the time doesn't it? **Why?** Because that's what the Bible says we are to do! And therefore, if we are going to adequately **represent** God in this world, then we to be those kind of people who **shine** in the midst of this dark world instead of **whine** just like the rest of this world. And how do we do that? By doing **everything** without complaining!

People of God, the fact is that our actions, behavior, **and words** identify who we are in the world's eyes. And if you have a life that is full of complaining just like everybody else in the world, like it lump it or leave it, you are giving a false representation of a Christian. And in case you don't know, one who gives a false representation is called a **hypocrite**. One who says or believes one thing yet does another. And if there's one thing this world hates more than anything, it's hypocrites **in the Church!** And people, it doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that if we say on the one hand, Jesus is wonderful, yet on the other hand we whine and grumble and complain all the time, we are acting like a hypocrite.

For instance, what if we we're at one moment sharing with somebody words of encouragement from the Scripture but then somebody else walks

into the room and we started cussing like a sailor? How many of you would say that that's just a little bit hypocritical? Slightly! Preaching the Word of God on one hand yet cussing like a sailor in the other! Give me a break! But people, **here's the point**. Aren't we doing the same thing when we whine and complain? Stop and think about it. We all know the Bible clearly says we shouldn't be cussing, but our text also said neither should we what? Neither should we be complaining, right? And it's this tendency to be hypocritical with our words is what James was trying to warn us about.

James 3:9-12 “We use the tongue to bless our Lord and Father and we use the same tongue to curse our fellow-men, who are all created in God's likeness. Blessing and curses come out of the same mouth—surely, my brothers, this is the sort of thing that never ought to happen!

Have you ever known a spring to give sweet and bitter water from the same source? Have you ever seen a fig-tree with a crop of olives, or seen figs growing on a vine? It is just as impossible for salt water to produce fresh.”

People of God, you may be able to fool some of the people some of the time, but you can never fool God. Therefore, ask yourself, as a Christian, are your words giving forth sweet water, or bitter water? And people, if it's **bitter**, then you **better** knock it off! **Why?** Because that's not the kind of Christian God wants to world to see. It's a false representation and it's not only detrimental to your life, but it affects the lives of others in a horrible way, like it did with this guy.

“Years ago in Germany there was a young Jewish boy who had a profound sense of admiration for his father. The life of the family centered around the acts of piety and devotion prescribed by their religion. The father was zealous in attending worship and instruction and demanded the same from his children.

While the boy was a teenager the family was forced to move to another town in Germany. In the new location there was no synagogue, and the pillars of the community all belonged to the Lutheran Church. Suddenly the father announced to the family that they were all going to abandon their Jewish traditions and join the Lutheran Church.

When the stunned family asked why, the father explained that it was necessary to help his business. The youngster was bewildered and confused. His deep disappointment soon gave way to anger and a kind of intense bitterness that plagued him throughout his life. He left Germany and went to England to study.

He sat daily at the British Museum formulating his ideas and composing a book. In that book he introduced a whole life and worldview and conceived of a movement that was designed to change the world. In the book he described religion as an ‘opiate for the masses’ that could be explained totally in terms of economics.

Today there are billions of people in the world who live under the system invented by this embittered man. His name, of course, is Karl Marx. The influence of this father’s hypocrisy is still being keenly felt around the world.”

People of God, in light of that story, think of how many people have been driven into the horrible clutches of communism and how many millions of people have died because of it. And it all started with what? One man’s hypocrisy. And people, I’m here to tell you it’s the same thing with us. How many people have been driven away from Christ and how many millions of souls are perishing in hell because of our constant complaining? I’m here to

tell you it's just as deadly and just as hypocritical as what Karl Marx's father did!

Therefore, let's be honest. If we expect people to believe that Jesus will satisfy their deepest inner longings, then shouldn't we back it up with our **words** as well as our lives? People of God, let's face it. Constant complaining does not entice anyone to the faith, does it? **Why?** Because it's giving a false representation of a Christian **with your mouth!** Knock it off!

Oh, but that's not all. The **second way Complaining Affects the Gospel** is that it **Follows the Way of the World.**

John 17:13-16 "Now I'm returning to You. I'm saying these things in the world's hearing so My people can experience My joy completed in them. I gave them Your Word. The godless world hated them because of it, because they didn't join the world's ways, just as I didn't join the world's ways. I'm not asking that You take them out of the world but that You guard them from the Evil One. They are no more defined by the world than I am defined by the world."

People of God, according to our text, I think it's pretty obvious. If we are no more part of this world than Jesus is, then shouldn't our lives **as well as our words** back it up? I mean, shouldn't our conversations be filled with the same words as Jesus instead of the words of the world? And therefore, wouldn't that be a **defining** mark of a follower of Christ? You do what Jesus does? Of course!

But unfortunately, we Christians have been tricked into following the way of this world. And for those of you who may not know, the way of the world is a life of constant complaining! Has anyone noticed that the habit of complaining has increased over the years? In fact, so much so that it's considered to be the "norm" in everyone's conversation. A case in point would be Monday mornings. When you get to work, what is everyone talking about? Complaints, right? "You won't believe what so and so did to me this weekend!" "Did you hear what they said on the news this morning?" or, "I can't believe it. Some crazy driver almost ran me off the road on the way to work!" And if that wasn't bad enough, it continues everyday all week long. "Did you see what so and so fellow employee did?" "Did you hear that in the meeting? I can't believe the stupid decision the boss just made!"

Oh, but it doesn't end there. If you'll notice, people will complain just about anything. Whether it is the weather conditions, something being said on the radio, an article read in the newspaper, food, bad breath, politics, or even something as trivial as a fly buzzing around. And it continues day in and day out. Then the weekend arrives and guess what? It starts all over again on Monday! Folks, this is the way of the world and that's what **defines** a worldly person. But people we are not to be worldly people, we're to

Christ's people. And stop kidding yourself. What **defines** us as such is not just how you live but how you **speak!**

People of God, where have the Patrick Henry's of old gone? Where are the men and women who will look death in the face and cry out, "Give me liberty or give me death?" No, instead we have a world full of people who say, "Give me hot French fries or I'll tell the manager!" What in the world has happened? People of God, if we give into the current worldly trend to complain about everything like everyone else, then we are simply rejecting what Jesus said and we are actually following the way of the world and acting no different. And if we really want to please the Lord then we'll follow Him and His ways, which includes **putting His words in our mouths**, not the worlds.

So what do we do if we are guilty of following the ways of this world by complaining? Great question. I'm glad you asked. The **first thing** we need to do to stop complaining like the world is **To Put Our Problems in Perspective.**

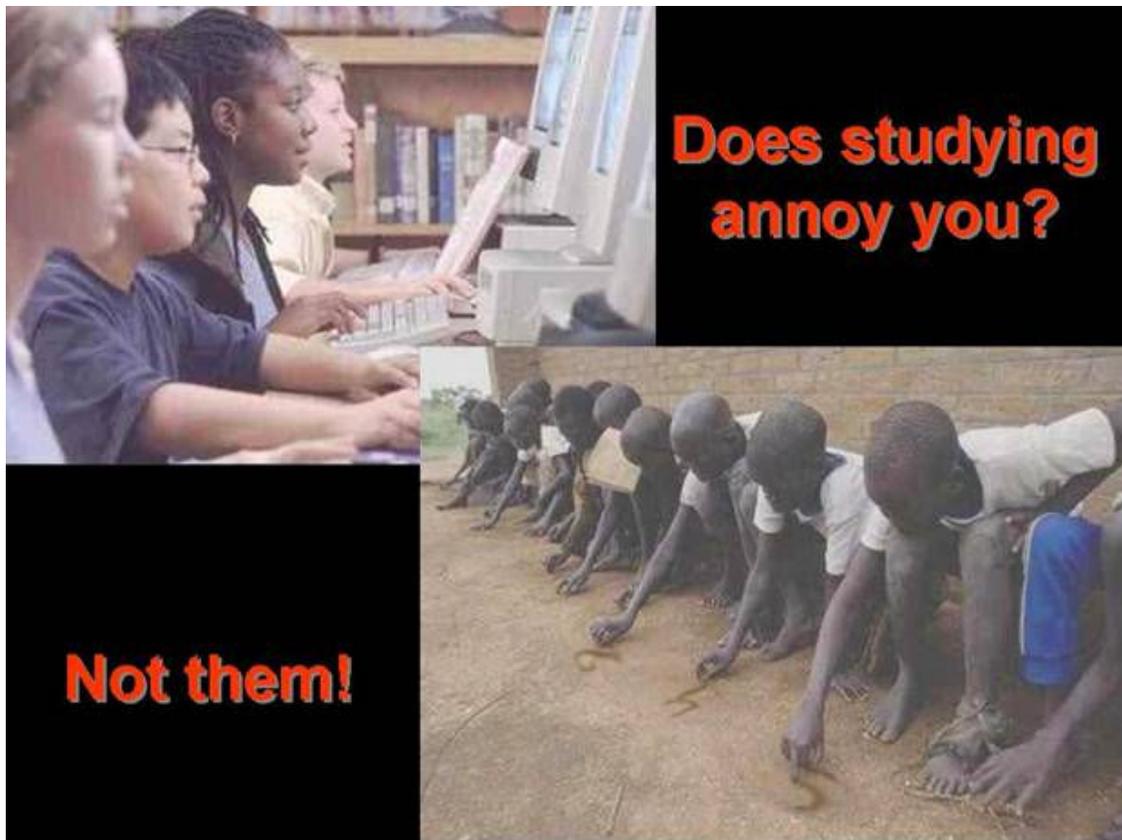
1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 "Be joyful always; pray continually; give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."

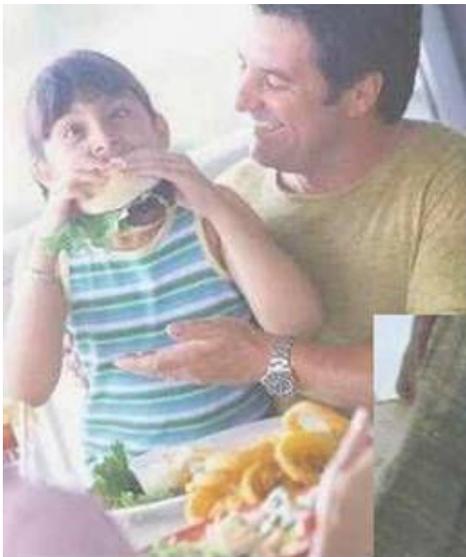
Now folks according to our text it's pretty clear. In **every single one** of our circumstances, good bad or ugly, what are we Christians supposed to do? We are to pray, be joyful, and give thanks, right? In fact, it's not just

God's will for us, but it's just as much God's will for as is don't murder and don't steal, right? And we would never think of doing those, right? But wait a second, does that mean we are to give thanks to God even for bad times? Yup! Last time I checked, everything means everything! And you might be tempted to think that this is a mission impossible but people, hello I challenge you, if God wrote it in His Word then that means **it is possible!**

All things are possible with God!

And if we're going to give God thanks in all circumstances instead of complain in all our circumstances then the **first thing** we need to do is **To Put Our Problems** into Perspective like these pictures do.





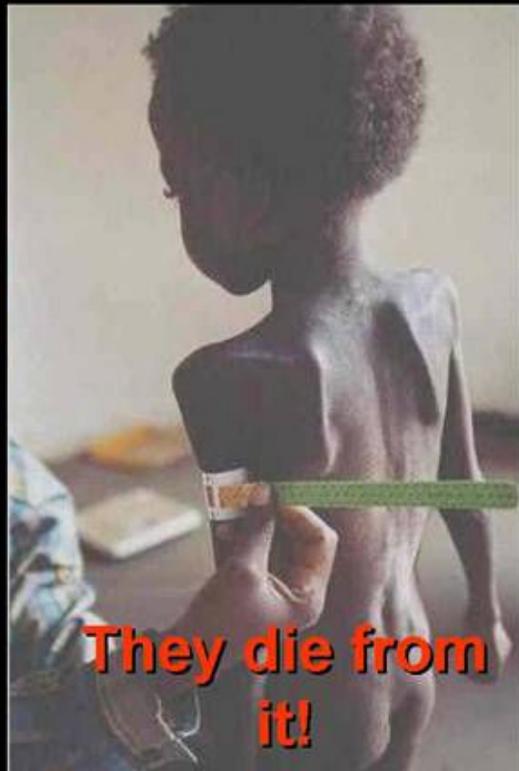
Hate vegies?



They starve from hunger!



On a diet?



They die from it!



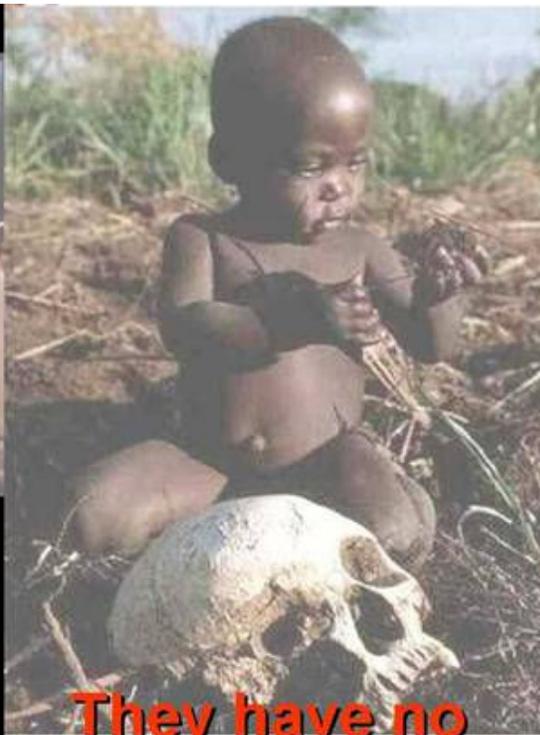
**Does your
parents care tire
you?**



**They don't have
any!**



**Bored of the
same games?**



**They have no
option!**

**Someone got you
Adidas instead of
Nike?**



**They only have
one brand!**



**Aren't thankful
for a bed to
sleep in?**

**They'd
wish not to
wake up!**



Still complaining? People of God, here's the point. Put it in perspective. We all got problems. But it ain't nothing like that! Therefore, life is good. There's no need to complain, right? And people, I'm telling you, once you put your problems into perspective, you'll have a proper attitude, just like Chuck Swindoll says.

“The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude in life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do.

It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill. It will make or break a company...a Church...a home. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable.

The only thing we can do is play on the one thing we have, and that is our attitude...I am convinced that life is 10 percent what happens to me and 90 percent how I react to it. And so it is with you...we are in charge of our attitudes.”

People of God, when are we ever going to understand that we are in charge of our attitudes every single day no matter what happens. The fact is, nobody makes us complain. It's simply our choice. We need to put it into perspective.

Oh but that's not all. The **second thing** we need to do to stop complaining like the world with **To Take Our Problems to Prayer**.

Philippians 4:4-7 “Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice! Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near. Do not be anxious

about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

Now folks, according to our text, when we encounter problems in life, what do we need to do? We simply present your problems to God in prayer and receive His peace and keep on rejoicing, right? And notice what the text **did not** say. It did not say when you and I have a problem in life that we need to complain in the Lord, I tell you again, complain, did it? Of course not, that’s blasphemous, right? Then people, how blasphemous do you think it is when we really do do that, especially when we don’t have to! People of God, the facts are this. If we would spend as much time praying about our problems as we do in whining and complaining about our problems, we would see a drastic turnaround. Even though our problems may not go away right way, if we would just pray more and pout less, we could be full of joy. Isn’t that what the Bible says?

Therefore, once again, when are we going to understand that we are in charge of our mouths. Nobody makes us complain. It’s simply our choice. If you got a problem, don’t pout about it, just pray about it. **Why?** Because unless you do, it will have drastic affects on the gospel like this lady found out.

“A Christian baroness, living in the highlands of Nairobi, Kenya, told of a young national who was employed as her houseboy. After three months, he

asked the baroness to give him a letter of reference to a friendly sheik some miles away.

The baroness, not wishing the houseboy to leave just when he had learned the routine of the household, offered to increase his pay. The lad replied that he was not leaving for higher pay. Rather, he had decided he would either become a Christian or a Muslim.

This was why he had come to work for the baroness for three months. He had wished to see how Christians acted. Now he wanted to work for three months for the sheik to observe the ways of the Muslims. Then he would decide which way of life he would follow.

The baroness was stunned as she recalled her complaining and the many blemishes in her dealings with the houseboy. She could only exclaim, ‘Why didn’t you tell me at the beginning!’”

Now that lady found out too late about the harmful affects a life of complaining has on the gospel didn’t she? You see, that fact is, you and I might be the only Christian somebody will ever see. And let’s be honest. If we expect people to believe that Jesus will satisfy their deepest inner longings, then shouldn’t we back it up with our **words** as well as our lives? People of God, let’s face it. Constant complaining does not entice anyone to the faith, does it? **Why?** Because you’re following the way of the world **with your mouth!** Knock it off!

People of God, don’t you see what’s going on here. Not all of our battles are against flesh and blood. There’s more going on here than meets the eye. The devil wants you to join him by shaking a fist at God. **How?** By accusing Him saying, “God You’re no good. You don’t know what you’re

doing. I know what's right. I know what I need and I'm going to whine and complain until I get it my way! And besides, there's no way to go through life without complaining. It's impossible!" But people, hello, **one** God said to so it is possible, and **two** look at the life of Charles Spurgeon. Did he have a perfect life? Did things always go his way? Are you kidding! Let's not just look of the fruit. Let's look at the pain.

"Charles Spurgeon suffered much of his life with severe physical agony from attacks of gout and at times he even suffered severe depression. Many a times he was in great pain as he preached with a choking sensation that often made preaching for him a great misery. In fact, most of the time, Spurgeon's wife too was ill to the point where she couldn't even leave home to hear him preach.

He knew what suffering was like from within as well as without. Because of his stance on the truths of the Bible, his ministry was attacked by opponents to the point where he had to separate from his own denomination.

And toward the end of his life, his health declined even more where he suffered not only from gout and depression but rheumatism that caused chronic pain throughout his body and Bright's disease which caused back pain, vomiting, fever, and restrictive breathing.

But through it all, Spurgeon remained a humble man who freely gave all the glory to God. Although thousands of people came to listen to him, he never took the glory for himself and saw himself as nothing.

As he once said, 'I always fell inclined to take the very lowest room in my Father's house, when I enter Heaven, it will be to go among the less than the least of saints, and with the chief of sinners.'"

And people, here's the point. If anyone had a "right" to complain it was Charles Spurgeon, right? But people, what did he do? Somewhere along

the line **he had a choice to make**. And apparently he chose once and for all not whine and complain against God but to worship God! To glorify Him, not the devil. And because of that, what happened? God used that man in a mighty mighty way.

And people, I'm here to tell you that it's the same choice with you and I. If you're sick and tired of reading the Bible in one hand and looking at you're life in the other thinking something doesn't match up here, then you too need to choose once and for all, what kind of life you want to live. A whiny crybaby sad excuse for a Christian life that whines at the slightest infraction, or a life that worships God glorifying His name no matter what comes you're way. And if you choose to glorify God, then you'll not only discover **The Secret To A Worshipful Life** like Charles Spurgeon, but you'll be empowered to finally have **A Life Worth Living For!**

To find the way to God, to understand the *truth* of God's Word, and to received the gift of eternal *life*, begin by repentance and faith through a prayer like this:

“Dear God, I understand that I have broken Your Law and sinned against You. Please forgive my sins. Thank You that Jesus suffered on the cross in my place. I now place my trust in Him as My Savior and Lord. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.”
