

Resurrection Life of Jesus Church

THEORY TO REALITY

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Every Christian has heard and read about God but there comes a time when you need to move from theory to reality. This process will challenge your soul and force you to be introspective about what you believe and why.

My children know that I love them. They know about God, the creation account, what took place in the Garden of Eden and why we need a Savior. They know that Jesus died on the cross, rose on the third day and that the baptism of the Holy Spirit is necessary if you want to operate in full power. As they continue to grow older and encounter more people and circumstances, they will need to move from theory to reality.

Moses spent his first 40 years as a prince of Egypt, and when God called him, Moses was wrapping up his second 40 year stint as a shepherd; he didn't know that God had vastly different plan for the third phase of his life. **Exodus 3:1-15**

Joshua faithfully served under the guidance of Moses but eventually he had to stand on his own and know whether God was truly with him. **Joshua 1:1-9**

Samuel's conception was a miraculous answer to prayer and his mother dedicated him to the Lord. Samuel was raised in the knowledge of God but he too had a day when he moved from theory to reality. **1 Samuel 3:1-21**

Paul had a life changing experience where everything he knew to be true was turned upside down. Ananias did not know Paul but he knew things that only God could have revealed and he was an answer to Paul's prayer. **Acts 9:1-18**

RECRUIT VS VETERAN

Anyone who joins the U.S. Army will go through basic training, which is physically challenging and requires new recruits to mentally adjust an unfamiliar way of life. They must adhere to a strict daily schedule while their physical fitness and weapons proficiency is continually tested. Once they graduate basic training, these recruits now have a theoretical knowledge of warfare.

These newly christened soldiers can talk a good game but they haven't experienced combat yet. Basic training has not prepared them for the horrors of war. They haven't lived through the death and carnage and seen a fellow soldier die in their arms. They only become combat veterans when they repeatedly encounter the enemy, put their training to use, pull together as a team, and secure the victory against an opponent that is actively resisting them.

Young children who come to Christ are focused on the fact that Jesus loves them and that He died for their sins. Children need care and instruction on the basics of life in order to function and survive. It is the same with spiritual growth. Just like with army



recruits, God will use mature believers to teach and train younger Christians how to walk with Him. **Proverbs 22:6; 2 Timothy 2:15; 3:16-17; Titus 2:1-8**

DEADLY CONFLICT

Have you ever seen a cat play with a mouse? The Devil and the evil spirits may play with us, but just like the cat and mouse, the end is the same each time. **1 Peter 5:8-9**

This is more than just a war of physical life and death because this struggle will determine the eternal fate of men and women. Satan hates mankind because we are created in the image of God and he is waging a deadly war that kills Christians and has committed billions of unbelievers unto hell. **Ephesians 6:10-13**

Any soldier in the U.S. Army who fails to take the enemy seriously will lose his life; the circumstances in a wartime situation are serious.

As Christians, the principles used in physical warfare also apply to the spiritual war being waged against the church of Jesus. The struggles we face are physically real but let's not neglect the spiritual aspect as well.

A farmer's crop is proportionate to the amount of seed sown; likewise, God will reward the effort we put toward our walk with Him. **Galatians 6:7-8**

Walking with God is not a sprint; run the race with endurance.