

## ACKNOWLEDGING JESUS

By John F. Hall

For nearly a half century, I have acknowledged Jesus Christ in my stories. In Matthew, Chapter 10, Verse 33, are these words: “But whoever disowns Me before others, I will disown before my Father in heaven.” It is only because of the grace upon grace and the inspiration from, Jesus Christ,



that I am able to write, and to share my life stories. Today, my chronic fatigue, caused by the medications that I have to take, just to stay alive, is slowing me down. Long gone are my younger days, when I would parachute out of helicopters and planes, or be involved in highspeed police chases. Now, I’m too old to toot my own horn. All that I can do is to share my life stories, and some of the lessons that I’ve learned, as I traveled down some of life’s broken roads. But the memories of those thrilling days, are still vivid in my mind. My enemies have long since gone into the ground, that knows no sound. Their names are etched into the marble stones above their graves. I have long since forgiven them. As Jesus Christ, said that we should all do, “seven times seventy.” We are not to cast judgment on anyone. That belongs solely to Jesus Christ. I miss family and friends who made my life so enjoyable. I don’t know how to repay the wonderful leaders, teachers, and Pastors, who taught me so much. The awards, metals, and recognition, are truly appreciated. I pray, that by sharing my stories, that I might become an instrument of Christ’s peace. For He, alone, is to be given the honor and the glory.

Leslie Alexis wrote the poem, “I am Christ’s.” Almost forgotten in this world of distractions by cell phones and other social media, is Satan. He roams through this world seeking the ruin of souls. These are Leslie Alexis words: “In heaven, at the right hand of God I’ll sit. IT haven’t been there, but my eyes can see it. Adorned in righteous robes, I’ll stand by the King. I will see angels flying with their angelic wings. With Christ as my head, I will not in my journey fail. Sometimes it will be tough, but the God will prevail. Battles may be waged for my soul, but Satan that you cannot have; I am Christ’s and so two is my heart. I belong to Jesus, Jesus, Jesus, and Jesus. Your tricks and deceits won’t get to me anymore. God has encamped around me with angels — 10,000 by 4. You lost since you first started this spiritual war. You’re worthless, but my God just keeps raising His bar. In heaven, at the right hand of God I’ll sit. I haven’t been there, but my eyes have seen it”.

The other day, I was sitting in my wheelchair, at my kitchen table. It is where I now draft my stories. I went over to my large kitchen window. I locked the two large wheels on the wheelchair, and just looked out the window. The sun was setting in the west. There was still some light in the distance, when the security light on the utility pole, at the front of my driveway, came on. I looked up at the sky and asked: “Jesus! Where are You?”

The Bible tells us, that when Jesus was lifted up to heaven, that He is seated at the right side of His Father. The Bible also says that, Jesus, will come to judge the living and the dead, on Judgment Day. He will expose our deeds, the good and the bad. I know that I am a sinful wretch. But I also know that Jesus is merciful. Many years ago, when my oldest granddaughter, Andrea, was a student at Heritage Christian Academy, she asked me to take her to a TobyMac Christian Concert, held in the Allen Arena on the campus of Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee.

TobyMac is a Grammy winning singer. He won several Dove Awards, and several BMI honors as Christian Songwriter of the Year. My wife, Paula, came with Andrea and me. Nearly 4,000 people in the audience cheered when TobyMac appeared on stage. After singing two songs, he talked to the crowd. He said: "I want the wives to lock into their husband's eyes. And I want the single women to look into the eyes of their boyfriends. I want them to say: "Don't disrespect me". After singing several more songs, TobyMac talked to the crowd again. He waited until the arena was silent, then he said: "The Bible calls the word — repent! But I call it Turn Around. No matter how shallow or how deep a hole you have made for yourself, or the number of problems you have, you should stop. Turn Around and walk back to Christ!"

I noticed that Andrea and the crowd agreed with this Christian singer. I would add that we need Jesus Christ, not only when we have too many problems, or when we are in over our heads; we need Jesus 24/7, at all times. Without Christ, we are nothing. Each breath that we take, each heart beat is a gift from Christ. Walking away from Jesus Christ is like walking into darkness. Jesus is the light of the world. We need His love. Now, nearly 15 years after watching that concert, I watched a memorial service on TV for Charlie Kirk. A deeply Christian man, he was assassinated while on a university campus, as he was talking to the students. This man created Turning Point USA. It is the nation's preeminent conservative youth organization. Its mission is to identify, educate, train, and organize students to promote the principles of freedom, free markets, and limited government. Charlie Kirk's wife, Erika, publicly forgave the man that killed her husband.

Wanda Kasinger wrote the poem, "My Friend Jesus". These are her words: "Jesus is a friend, from so long ago. When I need a special friend, He's so good to know. I thank Him for the good times, talk to him about the bad. He helps me with my troubles, He's the best friend I ever had. I tell Him all my secrets, and things I plan, that's new. I ask Him for His blessing, to show me what to do. My friend is always with me, no matter where I go. I know He always love me, because He told me so". And, in my inadequate way, I acknowledge Christ.

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