

All In

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So many people today, even people in the body of Christ, are hurting, lonely and desperate. They go about their daily business living a natural life and hope for the best. The Lord spoke to me the other day while I was preparing some messages for our church conference in Michigan. He said, “If a person lives a natural life the best that they can hope for is to finish this life with the least amount of damage and die a natural death.”

Think about that! Isn't that what so many Christians are doing? My brother and sister we are not called to live a natural life. The natural life is for the person that is not born again, not a new creation with the DNA (devil neutralizing anointing) of God flowing through their body. We are called up higher—to live and breathe a supernatural life like Jesus lived on this earth.

When you try to live a natural life you are following the way of the world. But remember this – the world is not your friend. The world will use you then abuse you; it will take everything you have and leave you. Remember years ago the commercial for Wheaties? Wheaties, the breakfast of champions. The world always says it has the answers, the solutions. But in the end it leaves you hurting and defeated. The Wheaties didn't do much for Bruce Jenner – he went from being the Olympic Decathlon champion to the man he is today. The world has nothing for you my brother and sister. So many, especially here in America, are living a life of political correctness according to the ever shifting standards of the world. But thank God we have the Bible which does not shift its standards—it is the Rock of revelation and we are to build our houses on that rock and not on the shifting sands of the world system controlled by Satan.

Texas Hold 'em poker has become very popular due to T.V. coverage and multi-million dollar prize winnings. Are you familiar with the betting term in Texas Hold 'em , ALL IN? In poker it means you risk all your chips—everything you have on that hand. You're telling you're opponents—I believe my hand is so good that I'm willing to risk all I have—I'm “ALL IN.” The Lord gave me that as a title for one of the messages I ministered last week at Jesus is Lord Ministries Church. We are living in such a time when we can no longer hold anything back. Everything you hold back – everything you refuse to give to the Lord you are keeping in the natural world—a place of failure. Jesus

wants us to be “ALL IN” for the Kingdom! He wants us to live the supernatural life for which we were created.

Yes, we live in a scary world but the good news is Jesus is still Lord and he can still take a life and change it completely. If you are ALL IN there is nothing you cannot overcome. The Lord showed me that there are people who believe it is impossible for them to go All IN because of past failures but I am here to tell you that is a lie of the devil and it is not over till it's over.

Let's look at the lives of a few people who went ALL IN and how that quality decision changed them forever:

Peter

Let's look at Matthew 26: 69-74

69 Now Peter was sitting without in the court: and a maid came unto him, saying, Thou also wast with Jesus the Galilean. **70** But he denied before them all, saying, I know not what thou sayest. **71** And when he was gone out into the porch, another *maid* saw him, and saith unto them that were there, This man also was with Jesus of Nazareth. **72** And again he denied with an oath, I know not the man. **73** And after a little while they that stood by came and said to Peter, Of a truth thou also art *one* of them; for thy speech maketh thee known. **74** Then began he to curse and to swear, I know not the man. And straightway the cock crew. **75** And Peter remembered the word which Jesus had said, **Before the cock crow, thou shalt deny me thrice.** And he went out, and wept bitterly.

At this point Peter wasn't ALL IN. This is who he was but not who he would be. Peter had a relationship with the Lord but had not yet found his place - his power. When the world confronted him not only did he begin to curse and act like the world but he even denied the Lord.

Now, let's look at the same man after he went ALL IN.

2 Acts 2:14-24

14 But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and spake forth unto them, *saying*, Ye men of Judaea, and all ye that dwell at Jerusalem, be this known unto you, and give ear unto my words. **15** For these are not drunken, as ye suppose; seeing it is *but* the third hour of the day. **16** but this is that which hath been spoken through the prophet Joel: **17** And it shall be in the last days, saith God, I will pour forth of My Spirit upon all flesh: And your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, And your young men shall see visions, And your old men shall dream dreams: **18** Yea and on My servants and on My handmaidens in those days Will I pour forth of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy. **19** And I will show wonders in the heaven above, And signs on the earth

beneath; Blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke: **20** The sun shall be turned into darkness, And the moon into blood, Before the day of the Lord come, That great and notable *day*. **21** And it shall be, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved. **22** Ye men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God unto you by mighty works and wonders and signs which God did by him in the midst of you, even as ye yourselves know; **23** him, being delivered up by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye by the hand of lawless men did crucify and slay: **24** whom God raised up, having loosed the pangs of death: because it was not possible that he should be holden of it.

Acts 2:36-41 **36** Let all the house of Israel therefore know assuredly, that God hath made him both Lord and Christ, this Jesus whom ye crucified.

37 Now when they heard *this*, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Brethren, what shall we do? **38** And Peter *said* unto them, Repent ye, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ unto the remission of your sins; and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. **39** For to you is the promise, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, *even* as many as the Lord our God shall call unto him. **40** And with many other words he testified, and exhorted them, saying, Save yourselves from this crooked generation. **41** They then that received his word were baptized: and there were added *unto them* in that day about three thousand souls.

We clearly see a different Peter—he had the revelation of what was occurring. No longer was he a man living a natural life but a man who had been endued with power from on high – a man who was ALL IN. He no longer was the man he used to be but became the man he could be. Say to yourself, “I’m ALL IN.”

Rahab

Let’s look at Joshua 2:1 And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men as spies secretly, saying, Go, view the land, and Jericho. And they went and came into the house of a harlot whose name was Rahab, and lay there.

Rahab the harlot. How would you like to have that reputation? Her start in life was not very good. Rahab has a reputation – that of a harlot. It was who she was but not who she would be. She was who the natural world and the society in which she lived had made her. But fortunately for her that was not the end of her story. Many of you feel like God can’t use you because of your past – think again....

Let’s look at Joshua 2:1-15

1 And Joshua the son of Nun sent out of Shittim two men as spies secretly, saying, Go, view the land, and Jericho. And they went and came into the house of a harlot whose

name was Rahab, and lay there. **2** And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to-night of the children of Israel to search out the land. **3** And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, that are entered into thy house; for they are come to search out all the land. **4** And the woman took the two men, and hid them; and she said, Yea, the men came unto me, but I knew not whence they were: **5** and it came to pass about the time of the shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out; whither the men went I know not: pursue after them quickly; for ye will overtake them. **6** But she had brought them up to the roof, and hid them with the stalks of flax, which she had laid in order upon the roof. **7** And the men pursued after them the way to the Jordan unto the fords: and as soon as they that pursued after them were gone out, they shut the gate. **8** And before they were laid down, she came up unto them upon the roof; **9** and she said unto the men, I know that Jehovah hath given you the land, and that the fear of you is fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. **10** For we have heard how Jehovah dried up the water of the Red Sea before you, when ye came out of Egypt; and what ye did unto the two kings of the Amorites, that were beyond the Jordan, unto Sihon and to Og, whom ye utterly destroyed. **11** And as soon as we had heard it, our hearts did melt, neither did there remain any more spirit in any man, because of you: for Jehovah your God, he is God in heaven above, and on earth beneath. **12** Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by Jehovah, since I have dealt kindly with you, that ye also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a true token; **13** and that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and will deliver our lives from death. **14** And the men said unto her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business; and it shall be, when Jehovah giveth us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee. **15** Then she let them down by a cord through the window: for her house was upon the side of the wall, and she dwelt upon the wall.

The Rahab we see here was ALL IN. She became who she would be, she became worthy to be in the Hebrews hall of fame (Hebrews 11:30-31). What happened to the harlot? She became a hero – a hero of faith. She decided to not stay who she was but to become who she could be. You are a work in progress but you can't stay where you are or where you were. The prostitute became a hero. Who will you become?

Paul

Acts 9:1-2 **1** But Saul, yet breathing threatening and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, **2** and asked of him letters to Damascus unto the synagogues, that if he found any that were of the Way, whether men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem

Paul also had a reputation. He hated Christians. He thought he was on the side of God by pursuing Christians and imprisoning them. Paul was known for his persecution of Christians. He was a Pharisee and a Roman but more than that he was deceived.

Let's look at Acts 9:3-8 **3** And as he journeyed, it came to pass that he drew nigh unto Damascus: and suddenly there shone round about him a light out of heaven: **4** and he fell upon the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, **Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me?** **5** And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And he *said*, **I am Jesus whom thou persecutest:** **6** **but rise, and enter into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do.** **7** And the men that journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing the voice, but beholding no man. **8** And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw nothing; and they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus.

It was on the Damascus road that Paul had a supernatural experience that led to him going ALL IN with God. This was the day Paul began to change from man he was to the man he would be. Paul was all in. God was able to take him from being one who persecuted the Church to being one He used to establish the Church, write 2/3 of the New Testament and one of our greatest heroes of faith.

All 3 of these people had some things in common even though they were completely different :

Peter was a fisherman and cowered when the world confronted him about being with Jesus but when he went ALL IN he lost his fear of the world and the Lord was able to use him tremendously.

Rahab was a harlot but when she went ALL IN she became a hero to her family and was used as an instrument of deliverance for them. She became one of the heroes of faith mentioned in Hebrews 11.

Paul was a Pharisee, a tent maker and a Roman citizen. In the natural he seemed to have it all but he was deceived and an enemy of the Church until he went ALL IN and became the man that revelation poured through and was used to establish the Church.

Are you living in the world? Are you afraid like Peter, Do you have a past that hinders you like Rahab? Do you have deception and other things in your life like Paul that hold you back? The Lord is calling you today to make the decision to go ALL IN with Him. None of the things that hinder you are a problem for Him. He is still the deliverer – still the healer – He is more than enough for anything you need.

Don't wait another day. This is your day to go ALL In, to stop being who you were and start being who you can be in Him. Make that quality decision right now—tell the Lord Jesus that you've decided to go "ALL IN!"

