

Who's Writing Your Life's Story? Will it End Happily Ever After?

Are you the author of your life? Who is influencing you? Who is hindering you? Will your life story end with “happily ever after?”

Who doesn't want to live “happily ever after?” This is the wish, dream, and goal of every imperfect person living in this broken world. If only you could live a make believe life of your choice. Perhaps you would be a detective from a historic time like Sherlock Holmes, a girl who follows the yellow brick road and discovers new friends on her journey back home, or an ordinary Hobbit named Frodo, who chooses to be courageous and experience great adventures instead of sitting at home. Having an imaginary life allows you to feel drama, suspense, joy, and sadness at a safe distance. The liberty to escape, to observe, to stop reading a story, or to choose what you want to remember is what makes fiction stories so popular.

Unlike fiction, you cannot live a make believe life. No matter how much you fantasize, reality will always prevail. God created you as an imperfect person with free will in a fragmented world. On Earth, you are limited by the laws of gravity and the confines of time. You are faced with responsibilities, requirements, and challenges every day. You struggle to stay in the present moment amidst the busyness and information overload in the world. But as a child of God, the devil's evil darkness can always be shattered by the brilliant love, grace, and truth of God when you walk hand in hand with Jesus throughout your day.

If your current life story is not being penned with the victory and power of the Holy Spirit, you have the opportunity right now to change it. Your current challenges and previous history do not dictate the future chapters or the final sentences of your life. Don't let the enemy overwhelm or paralyze you with fear. Instead, let Jesus spark your relentless determination to firmly grasp your life's pen to write your story of steadfast faith. Let your life illustrate the love, hope, forgiveness, grace, and mercy of God as it unfolds on this earth and into eternity. Be courageous! Let's get started!

For everyone who has been born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith. 1 John 5:4 ESV

Who is the Cornerstone of Your Life?

During the B.C. centuries a builder would start a foundation by setting a principal stone in the corner of a building. This first stone was referred to as the cornerstone, and it determined the position of every other stone. The Bible uses the metaphor of a cornerstone in the New Testament to illustrate what happens to you when you ask Jesus Christ into your heart, and you become a child of God.

¹⁹ Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God's people and also members of his household, ²⁰ built on the foundation of the apostles and

prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the chief cornerstone.²¹ In him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord.²² And in him you too are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by his Spirit. Ephesians 2:19-22 NIV

For you to understand what it means to make Jesus the corner stone of your life, you will need to foster a progressive intimate relationship with him. Your close relationship can only begin and grow when you commit to spending time with him every day. Jesus gave you one hundred percent of himself. Now, you have the opportunity to use your free will to choose to give him one hundred percent of yourself also.

If you do not attend a church, or you have not been taught by a mature believer how to keep Jesus as the cornerstone of your life, you will not know about your faith responsibilities, challenges, defenses, or consequences. Your unawareness opens the door for the devil to offer you many options other than Jesus to be the cornerstone for your mind, heart, spirit, and life. The world tells you to be independent and to focus on yourself first. It supplies other imperfect people's ideals, philosophies, and gods to build your life around, who profess to give you love, happiness, success, and peace. Before you believe what the world tells you, it is vital to understand the world's definition of believing in a god. The world's definitions can be summarized into choosing a force or higher power in the universe, inside yourself, or in another imperfect person to be your ultimate authority, truth, guide, and power.

The problem with believing the world's definition of god equates to millions of versions of shifting ideals. Any god, spiritual path, or religion created in this world is from an imperfect person. Their god options are disguised as personalized preferences with an ever changing code of truths, morals, values, and standards. History has continually shown us that people will twist morals through any means, including all beliefs and religions for their own beneficial agenda. Without a perfect unchangeable truth, moral code, and standard to live up to, imperfect people will fail on their own every time.

Unless you keep Jesus as the cornerstone of your life, you are opening the doors of your mind and heart for the devil's influence and the temptation to work God into your life when you have time. The devil will do all he can to distract you from seeking to know what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and mature in your faith.

Trying to follow Jesus and live in the ways of the world at the same time is called being a carnal Christian.

- Carnal Christians rely on the grace and forgiveness of Jesus because they are saved. But they do not pursue a progressive personal relationship with Jesus or study God's word.

- Carnal Christians speak and act like Jesus when they go to church or are around other believers. But the rest of the time their words, attitudes, and actions reveal they are focused on living for their fleshly desires and their own agenda.
- Carnal Christians do their best to be a good person, but they find themselves on a never ending rollercoaster of frustration, doubt, worry, guilt, shame, fear, and other debilitating emotions and habitual sin.
- Carnal Christians have little or no visible harvest of the fruits of their Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, self-control, or God's blessings.
- Carnal Christians are vulnerable and blind to the illusions, schemes, and influences the devil uses in the world.

Carnal Christians do not have Jesus as the cornerstone of their life because every other aspect of their life is not centered on Him. They are not experiencing the abundance and victory they have heard professed by Jesus or they have seen in other Christians' lives. Every Christian will fall into this trap at some time in their walk of faith, to some degree, because we are all imperfect sinners.

For many years, I was unaware I had been living as a carnal Christian because I had not sought the truth of God on my own, nor had I heard it from the pulpit. If you are also in this place, you can no longer claim ignorance because you are reading this book. I urge you to seek God's truth in His word and learn what it means to be a disciple of Jesus Christ in every aspect of your life.

It is for this reason Jesus chose to come down to this broken Earth, dwell with us, and teach us how to overcome the devil through Christ. One of the most unique and amazing aspects of the living God we serve is His grace and mercies which provide us with His forgiveness and a new start. It doesn't matter where you have been in your faith journey up to this point. Everything changes when you choose to keep Jesus as the cornerstone of your heart and life. Learn to build every aspect of your life around Him and live in his abundance.

But each one should build with care. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. 1 Corinthians 3:11