



THE **Connected** Life

**21-day personal
study guide**
for those already
connected



INTRODUCTION

Life in the twenty-first century is highly dynamic, volatile and challenging. How do you respond to the changes in the society in which you live? What is your response to the immense economic, environmental and global pressures facing us?

As governments and organisations grapple to find solutions that will reassure people, where is your confidence? Many of the things we have always taken for granted, such as secure banks, pensions and careers no longer provide the security and certainty they once did.

Even many churches and Christian leaders seem to lack certainty today – with forecasts of the demise of the church and discouraged leaders, many Christians are in serious danger of not being able to withstand further challenges to their faith. On 2 January 2009 the Daily Telegraph carried an article with this headline:

‘Older Britons losing faith as support for Church declines.’ This was based on a survey of 15,500 adults showing that the majority now worship or pray less than they used to, and many have lost their faith in God as they have grown older. A representative of the National Secular Society, Terry Sanderson, was quoted as saying: ‘It is also indicative of the way that society is moving generally’.

Listen to what Jesus, the Author and Finisher of your faith, says:

‘At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come’ (Matt. 24:10—14).

‘... when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?’
(Luke 18:8).

So how strong is your Christian faith today compared to five years ago? How do you think it might be in another five years?

In these times, when society is adrift on a wild sea of disbelief and uncertainty, you need more than ever to be connected to Christ and to understand the vital truth of what it means to be 'in Christ'. This core truth has been neglected for too long and it's time to rediscover what would happen if churches, leaders and Christians connected to the person, power and mission of Christ.

This is the vision of Connect4Life, a ministry for the whole church, rooted in God's Word to bring the wider resources of the Church to every part of the Church. It considers four vital aspects of connection to Christ with support brought to each one of them so that churches, leaders and Christians are strengthened for life:



• **The Connected** – those who have connected with the person, power and mission, of Christ



• **The Disconnected** – those who have walked away, for whatever reason



• **The Reconnected** – those coming 'home', or on their way back, if the Church will welcome them



• **The Unconnected** – those who have not yet made a connection with Christ or His Church

The twenty-one days of personal study contained in this book will strengthen you as a disciple of Christ. The readings may challenge you, but will help you to understand and define yourself with fresh certainty through your connection to the person, power and mission of Christ. For more information on the tools and resources available for you, your church, your leaders and your connected and unconnected friends, go to www.connect4life.org.uk.

DAY 1 **REMAIN IN ME**

TRUTH IN CHRIST **1**
'I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing' (John 15:5)

POWER IN CHRIST **2**
 Read John 15:1-

3 CHECK YOUR CONNECTIONS
 Listen to the possibility that there are things in my life that need to be cut off so I can bear more fruit
Circle your answer: Yes No Uncertain
 If I am in Christ, Jesus tells me that I am already clean because of the words He has already spoken to me (v.3). So am I remaining in Him, in His righteousness and holiness?
Circle your answer: Yes No Uncertain
 Reflecting Christ to others through love and service is fruit that I want to bear today
Circle your answer: Yes No Uncertain

PLUG IN **4**
 Jesus takes care of us so that He is the true vine – there are other vines which people can 'be in'. God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are in partnership for your good! God is a nurturing gardener. He cares and tends the vine carefully. When branches need to be removed, He doesn't do it randomly, or carelessly rip them off. They are identified by the Holy Spirit (John 16:3) and pruned for purpose back to the place from where new growth can come. A cut off branch is dead – it cannot bear fruit, it has no potential except as firewood. God's intention is for you to bear much fruit for His glory showing yourself to be in Christ. His disciple becoming more like Him. If you are in Christ, you cannot help but bear fruit for Him.
 If you are truly 'in Christ', you are joined to Him for ever and nothing can separate you from Him. These studies will help you assess whether you really are 'in Christ' or whether you've spent your life so far going through the motions. If you are in Christ, then know this about yourself:
MY IDENTITY
 I am a child of God and that never changes (Ephesians 1:5)
MY VALUE
 I know I am loved by God because His only Son Jesus died for me (John 3:16)
MY PURPOSE
 My life is to do God's will and to enjoy Him – this is for His glory (Eph 1:14; Eph 2:10; 2 Cor. 5:9–10)

SWITCH ON AND GO **5**
Spirit of God, breathe on me. Help me to honestly reflect on the strength of my connection with You, Father, I trust myself to you for the things that need to be cut back in me. Lord Jesus, as I go into this day, may Your words remain in me. Amen.

BLUE
 PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN
 TRUTH IN CHRIST TO APPLY

EARTH
 IN REAL LIFE OF LOVE AND SERVICE

GETTING THE MOST FROM THE DAILY STUDIES

Taking the metaphor of a correctly wired electrical plug, each day we will look at:

- **Truth in Christ** **1**
- **Power in Christ** **2**
- **Your connections** **3**
 Blue = aspects of self that need to be neutralised
 Brown = the live connection in Christ
 Earth = real life today
- **Plugging in** **4**
- **Switching on** **5**

May God build you in Christ through His Word and Spirit as you use this material – it will help you understand your identity, value and purpose, enabling you to face anything and everything.



TRUTH IN CHRIST

'I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing' (John 15:5)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read John 15:1–8

CHECK YOUR CONNECTIONS

I am open to the possibility that there are things in my life that need to be cut off so that I bear more fruit

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

If I am in Christ, Jesus tells me that I am already clean because of the word He has already spoken to me (v.3). So am I remaining in Him?

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

Reflecting Christ to others through love and service is fruit that I want to bear today

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

PLUG IN

Jesus takes care to stress that He is the true vine – do you know you are grateful to Him? God, Jesus and the Holy Spirit are in partnership for your good! God is a nurturing gardener. He cares and tends the vine carefully. When branches need to be removed, He doesn't do it randomly, or carelessly rip them off. They are identified by the Holy Spirit (John 16:8) and pruned for purpose back to the place from where new growth can come. A cut off branch is dead – it cannot bear fruit, it has no potential except as firewood. God's intention is for you to bear much fruit for His glory showing yourself to be in Christ, His disciple becoming more like Him. If you are in Christ, you cannot help but bear fruit for Him.

If you are truly 'in Christ', you are joined to Him for ever and nothing can separate you from Him. These studies will help you assess whether you really are 'in Christ' or whether you've spent your life so far going through the motions. If you are in Christ, then know this about yourself:

MY IDENTITY

I am a child of God and that never changes (Eph. 1:5)

MY VALUE

I know I am loved by God because His only Son Jesus died for me (John 3:16)

MY PURPOSE

My life is to do God's will and to enjoy Him – this is for His glory
(Eph. 1:14; Eph. 2:10; 2 Cor. 5:9–10)

SWITCH ON AND GO

Spirit of God, breathe on me afresh. Help me to honestly reflect on the strength of my connection with You. Father, prune me to bear much fruit for Your glory. Amen.



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TRUTH IN CHRIST

*'As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you.
Now remain in my love ...' (John 15:9)*

POWER IN CHRIST

Read John 15:9–17

CHECK CONNECTIONS

You can tell I am remaining in Christ's love because of my obedience to Him

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

I want to be totally connected to Jesus – and so to His mission and His power

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

I can think of specific fruit that Jesus has appointed me to bear in my life

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

BLUE

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TRUTH IN CHRIST
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PLUG IN

If you were asked today by an as-yet 'unconnected' person what it means to be 'in Christ', could you do so? Could you tell them how to become 'in Christ'? Being 'in Christ' defines whether or not a person is truly a child of God. Not all those who call themselves Christians will necessarily get into heaven, but only those who are 'in Christ'. This means opening up every aspect of your life to God. Churches have often neglected this essential teaching, resulting in a shallow Christianity which is almost unrecognisable alongside that which is authentic and fruit bearing (see day 19 for more).

This powerful expression, 'in Christ', appears eighty-nine times in the Bible – mostly spoken by Paul. It is the shortest and safest way to describe how a person stands before God – in Christ. There is no other safe way to stand before God. Why? Because Jesus is the means of our deliverance from the power and penalty of sin and death – His death on the cross was the measure of His love for you. And God loved you so much that He was willing for His Son to die for you. Can you recall the time you put your faith in the Son of God – when you repented of your sin and trusted Him for your new and unending life in Him?

If it is not clear to you that you have done this, then take a moment to do so now and rejoice in your new position of abundant life in Christ. For the remainder of our twenty-one days we'll be looking at what this means for you, whether you've just taken that step of faith or whether you've been on the journey with Christ for many years. 'Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity' (Heb. 6:1). So let's press on towards maturity, in Christ!

SWITCH ON AND GO

Lord Jesus, no one has ever shown me love like You. I want to remain in Your love and receive Your joy. Help me understand and apply Your truth in my life. Amen.





TRUTH IN CHRIST

'It is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Counsellor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send Him to you' (John 16:7)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read John
15:26–16:33

CHECK CONNECTIONS

I have been born again by the Spirit of God and welcome His work in my life

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

The God who loves me is now my Father because I have loved and trusted His Son

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

The Holy Spirit guides and empowers me for life in this troubled world

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

PLUG IN

When God first began to open your eyes to your need of Him and to your sinfulness, He did this through His Spirit at work in you. Like the wind, His life-giving Spirit blows where He wills, and through Him we are born again. This is not like an engine that is reconditioned – Paul puts it this way: ‘Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come! All this is from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ ...’ (2 Cor. 5:17–18).

The Holy Spirit was at work when you were born anew into the family of God. He continues His work to comfort, guide, empower and teach all who are ‘in Christ’, for He is now the member of the Trinity implementing God’s will on earth. Christ’s successful mission was completed as He cried out on the cross (for you and for me), ‘It is finished!’ and our Father ratified it when He raised His Son from death by the power of His Spirit. Jesus ascended but will return for us.

Yet, we are not left alone – Jesus promised help and sent His Holy Spirit to be with all those ‘in Christ’. He comes to live within us just as Jesus promised, so we are never alone. Through Him, we are joined to Christ for ever – this is our life-giving connection. Paul tells us that we should be filled with the Holy Spirit and go on being filled (see Ephesians. 5:18). Do you know that He lives within you today? If not, ask and God’s gift will be given – this is Jesus’ promise for you today. Without Him, our connection is suspect and we are incomplete.

SWITCH ON AND GO

Father God, I remember that I can ask You anything in the name of Jesus. Thank You for this. Please fill me with Your Holy Spirit right now that I may be one with You and have Your joy in me throughout this day. Amen.



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TRUTH IN CHRIST
TO APPLY

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TRUTH IN CHRIST

'I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them' (John 17:13)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read John 17:1–19

CHECK CONNECTIONS

I want to bring glory to God by doing the works He has given me to do

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

I know God as my Father through Jesus Christ

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

Father God guarantees my spiritual safety forever in Christ His Son

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

PLUG IN

Paul taught extensively about justification and sanctification, but it all begins with Jesus! We'll look some more at this in a few days. In a nutshell, justification is when you are placed out of guilt and 'into Christ' – your position changes from justifiable condemnation to justifiable innocence. Sanctification is the on-going work from this and an outworking of the justified life of a child of God – it is at the heart of our relationship with God, through which our characters become like Christ and we are made holy. God chose you in Christ to be holy and blameless before Him – you are set apart for this.

Jesus knew only too well that all His disciples would struggle in this life, that there would be trouble in this world, but He has made every provision for every disciple, including you! His prayer is for your holiness and purity – that you and I would be set apart from the world's dirtiness by His truth that sets us free. Did you hear that? It's amazing! Did you also hear that Jesus prayed that you would have the full measure of His joy?

What do you think the 'full measure of joy' is? Would you say you have it? It is Jesus' plan that His joy would be your strength. You are part of the joy that was set before Him. You were in Jesus' sights and inspired Him to go through with the cross, with all its pain and indignity – He scorned the shame of the cross because He knew that it was the route He had to take to give you the full measure of His joy. Life in Christ is to be filled with deep abiding joy, the sort of joy that lingers in sorrow, that sustains in pain and that rejoices with hope in every circumstance.

SWITCH ON AND GO

Father God, thank You for the prayers of my Saviour Jesus. Yes Lord, protect me today I pray and help me to live for Your glory in all that I do. Keep me from sin and on the journey with You. I know I'm a work in progress! Amen.



BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

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TRUTH IN CHRIST
TO APPLY

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TRUTH IN CHRIST

'I have made you known to them, and will continue to make you known in order that the love you have for me may be in them and that I myself may be in them ...'

(John 17:26)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read John 17:20–26

CHECK CONNECTIONS

BLUE

I should go out of my way for unity with fellow believers

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN

I understand Jesus' prayer for unity – 'I in them and you in me' (v.23)

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

TRUTH IN CHRIST
TO APPLY

EARTH

I live a connected life, one with God in Christ and with my fellow believers

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

IN REAL LIFE
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PLUG IN

These words of Jesus are the closest we are going to get to a 'live' recording of His prayer for us, just in the last hours and minutes before He was arrested and sentenced to death. This gives them great significance. If we truly believe that Jesus is our Saviour and Lord, we must pay close attention to the content of His prayer for us: '... those who will believe in me through their message' (v.20). You were known and included in God's plans before you were born.

So what is the core of our Saviour's prayer? It is for connection – a deep, profound and real oneness like that between God the Father and God the Son. Connection that we can have in Christ as He joins us through Himself to His Father, so that Almighty God becomes our Father too. At the centre of creation, we discover a holy three-way relationship – the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Each a separate entity, and yet each one with the other. Here's the extraordinary thing – They agreed together that They wanted you to become part of this family!

What began in John 15, Jesus' teaching about being connected, continues right into His final prayers for us in John 17. To be 'in Christ' is to connect for life that brings complete unity – with the holy Trinity and with each other. Think about a plug on a hair dryer; if it is properly wired up, plugged in and turned on, then power flows from the source and the hair dryer does what it is made for. It is a picture of connection that we shall explore some more. Think about times any electrical appliances have not worked and consider why.

SWITCH ON AND GO

Father, Son and Holy Spirit – I worship You and thank You for including me in Your family. Reveal to me more and more what this means. Help me to live out the connected life and to be one with my fellow believers. Amen.





TRUTH IN CHRIST

'If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose' (Phil. 2:1–2)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read Philippians 2:1–11

CHECK CONNECTIONS

BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

The humility of Jesus to servant-hood and death inspires and challenges me

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST
TO APPLY

My confession is that Jesus Christ is Lord to the glory of God the Father

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE
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I want my attitude to be like that of Christ Jesus

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**



PLUG IN

It doesn't take long to realise that being 'in Christ' is not a shallow concept but a profound reality that affects the whole of our beings. If the whole of our beings are not affected, then we need to consider our connections. Being united with Christ brings encouragement, comfort, fellowship, tenderness, compassion – our connection results in these things and others we shall be considering. For an electrical appliance no connection = no power = no function! For us no connection = What?

Whilst we don't have to die on a cross (thank God for Jesus doing this in our place) we do nonetheless have to be willing to die. This is where we begin to think about the blue terminal of our lives – the blue representing all of our old self that has to be neutralised. As you read the passage for today, how do you think you are doing on these areas of your life: selfish ambition, looking to others' interests, humility and like-mindedness?

Jesus said this: 'If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me' (Luke 9:23). What do you think this really means? Would you say that you do this? Over the next few days we will look closely at the blue connection of our lives – these 'blue-ys' have to be taken very seriously – put to death in fact!



SWITCH ON AND GO

Father God, the example of Your Son brings You great honour and deeply challenges me. Lord Jesus, thank You for humbling Yourself for me. Help me to trust You with my life and my death, that I may live for You. Amen.



TRUTH IN CHRIST

'And anyone who does not carry his cross and follow me cannot be my disciple' (Luke 14:27)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read Luke 14:25–35

CHECK CONNECTIONS

I am sure that I have understood the cost of being a disciple of Christ

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

I am willing to give up everything for Jesus because He gave up everything for me

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

I believe I live out a life of complete surrender to Jesus

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

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TRUTH IN CHRIST
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PLUG IN

Many think that Christianity is only for weak people who need a prop to support them in their journey through life. But this is far from the case. There is incredible gain if we believe, but total surrender is needed too. Jesus tells us to count the cost of taking Him seriously. To take Christ in a superficial way is to remain superficial. Just as a seed first has to die and be buried before it can germinate to new life and bear fruit, so too with us. Becoming a Christian is profound – more than just a raised hand or a read prayer.

Handing everything over to someone is a huge measure of trust. Are they worth it? Can they be trusted? What will they do with what I have entrusted to them? Yet this is what Jesus looks for in those who truly follow Him. He is worth it! He can be trusted! When we surrender everything to Him He repays us abundantly. Our act of surrender must be made in genuine humility, but to store up treasure in heaven is the wisest investment we could ever make.

Consider Jesus. He suffered the loss of privilege, status, power and even abandonment by His Father on the cross ... for you. 'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich' (2 Cor. 8:9). Have you counted the cost of complete surrender to Jesus?

SWITCH ON AND GO

Lord Jesus, Your knowledge of me is complete. Forgive me for any areas of my life that I have held back from You. Help me to trust You fully with every area of my life so that I may truly be Your disciple. Please encourage me. Amen.





TRUTH IN CHRIST

'Now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silenced and the whole world held accountable to God. Therefore no-one will be declared righteous in his sight by observing the law; rather, through the law we become conscious of sin'
(Rom. 3:19–20)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read Romans 3:9–11

BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

I have no righteousness of my own – even my best works are no better than filthy rags

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST
TO APPLY

I am justified freely by the grace of God through Jesus Christ

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

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I must fight a daily battle not to justify myself by words or deeds

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**



PLUG IN

It is common for all human beings to try to justify themselves. Have you ever heard or thought such things as: 'I'm not a bad person, not like some people! I don't break the law and I do good things!?' Ever since Eden, we've been trying to convince ourselves that we are good enough for God. Helping us define what is good enough, He tells us that 'the glory of God' is the standard and we all fall short of it, every single person ... except one. Laws were given for our good. Though we could not keep the Law, it's job was to lead us to Christ (see Galatians 3:24).

Initially, God gave mankind just one law: not to eat from one tree! We failed. That very action brought mankind under the dominion of sin and death. After the fall of the human race into sin there came a reliance on self and a resentment of God. Our abuse of freedom led to sin, for which the just outcome is death and separation from a holy God. Law is an impossible slave driver but we all keep going back to it – our fallen nature cannot satisfy its demands.

Law keeps raising its head, even in churches and the lives of Christians, through sets of dead religious laws and activities that we foolishly impose or go along with. It's all dead stuff – you need to die to it before it kills you! Think about aspects of your Christian life – are there any parts that are just dead and empty rituals? If so why not die to it!



SWITCH ON AND GO

Lord God, thank You for the law that shows me my sin and my need of Your Son Jesus. Take away my filthy rags and clothe me in Your righteousness. Amen.



TRUTH IN CHRIST

'It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery' (Gal. 5:1)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read Galatians 5:1–12

CHECK CONNECTIONS

I know that the law cannot justify me and that I cannot satisfy it.

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

I believe I am living in the freedom of Christ as a child of God

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

I will root out dead tradition and forms of legalism in myself this week and live in grace

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

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TRUTH IN CHRIST
TO APPLY

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PLUG IN

We are slow to get the true message of grace and quick to return to the slavery of law. Christians have had this problem right from the beginning which is why Paul has to write so bluntly. 'Doing Christianity' by our own set of rules makes it our own little religion – when we keep our own rules, we feel pride and have a tendency to judge others who haven't matched up. When we fail to keep our own rules we feel guilt and condemnation. Neither of these reactions have anything to do with a living relationship with Father God in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is easy to appear a 'Holy Joe' (or Jo)! But God isn't interested so much in the outside appearance as He is in what is happening on the inside. People look at the outward appearance whereas God looks right into our hearts. The Pharisees were smug – believing they had it all together, they were offended when Jesus called them hypocrites, like rotting tombs inwardly despite their outward respectability, and like vipers with their criticisms of others. Jesus has no time for dead religion and neither should we.

Watch out for these things – Jesus says they are like yeast! What may start off as a very small thing can, if it comes from the wrong motive, become a religious act through which we seek to justify ourselves again. This is never the way, whether it is the number of times you go to church, the amount of money you give, or the length of time you spend reading your Bible. All those things are good, but they must never become substitutes for the life of grace. We are to be motivated by a genuine love for God as inspired by His undeserved grace, not a love for our ways as inspired by law.

SWITCH ON AND GO

Father God, Your grace is amazing! Help me live in the freedom that comes in Christ and to shake off every wrong motive or dead religious act of my sinful nature. Amen.





TRUTH IN CHRIST

'You, my brothers, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the sinful nature; rather, serve one another in love' (Gal. 5:13)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read Galatians 5:13–21

CHECK CONNECTIONS

BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

I make a choice today not to indulge any aspect of my sinful nature

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST
TO APPLY

I need the Holy Spirit and ask Him to give me power for life today

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

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Loving and serving others is part of my every day life

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**



PLUG IN

Do you find that your 'old life in Adam' and your 'new life in Christ' are in conflict? They should be! Paul tells us this: 'For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive' (1 Cor. 15:22). Adam's way is under the curse of sin and death, Christ's way is above any curse – living the new and free life in Him, empowered by the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Before you were placed by faith 'into Christ', you were unable to refuse temptation – sin was your master and you were under the law. But once you are 'in Christ' everything changes. You become dead to the power of sin, able to choose not to sin but to live for God when temptation comes along. Life in Christ is all about transformation – the inward change of heart and mind that leads to the outward change of behaviour and life style.

So ... if you were to be shadowed for the next twenty-four hours or week, what would be seen: a lifestyle characterised by the acts of the sinful nature, or a child of God living for His glory? If you are in Christ you do not have to live in defeat, but can learn to live in His victory. This is all part of understanding what it is to be connected to Christ. Do you tend to live for God or for yourself? If for God, keep pressing on in that race. If not, let's look at those connections again.



SWITCH ON AND GO

Lord Jesus, Your Spirit searches my inner being. I know I cannot hide from You. I am trusting You on this inward journey for all the truths You want to teach me and for all the changes You want to see in me. Please help me. Amen.



TRUTH IN CHRIST

'Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand' (Rom. 5:1–2)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read Romans 5:1–20

CHECK CONNECTIONS

My slate has been wiped clean because Jesus died for me when I was still a sinner

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

The increase of grace in Christ has dealt with all my sin – I now stand in grace

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

I see that God brings the character and hope of Jesus in me through suffering and perseverance

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

PLUG IN

Think of your worst moments – Christ died for you in the best and the worst of them. You will never need more than His grace and you will never need less than His grace – His grace is sufficient for you and that is enough to make it as if you'd never sinned! The life-blood of Jesus imputes His righteousness to us in our powerlessness; in other words, His holy standing before God is attributed to all who trust in Christ. This changes our standing with God, forever.

Do you rejoice in Christ Jesus and the hope of the glory of God? How about rejoicing when you experience trials of many kinds? During these times of hardship, God is at work to bring out good things beyond what we can see – He knows what He is doing. His timing is always right for He is the caring Father who works all things together for your good. God's discipline is evidence of His Fatherhood – He looks to refine our characters, to burn off the dross and bring out the gold. How do you react when things are not going well? Do you react 'in Christ' or 'in Adam'? In your new self, or the old? All too often we spend our lives waiting for things to get better rather than realising that this is the life God has given us to live with Him – today will not come again. God has not placed you in Christ so that sin might reign in your life, but so that you will be in the reign of grace. So be encouraged, look to Jesus and go into this day in the power of the Spirit looking for opportunities to bring pleasure to Father God!

SWITCH ON AND GO

Father God, the realisation that I can come into Your presence and stand in grace is awesome. I worship You Father, and You Lord Jesus, and You Holy Spirit. I want to bring You joy today by living for You. Be with me I pray. Amen.



BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST
TO APPLY

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE
OF LOVE AND
SERVICE



TRUTH IN CHRIST

'The death he died, he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. In the same way, count yourselves dead to sin but alive to God in Christ Jesus' (Rom. 6:10–11)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read Romans 6:1–23

CHECK CONNECTIONS

BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

I will not let sin reign in my body

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST TO APPLY

I have been united with Christ in His death so that I may share with Him in His resurrection

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE OF LOVE AND SERVICE

I consciously offer my physical body to God to be an instrument of righteousness

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**



PLUG IN

You don't get much deeper than this – the death of your SELF. This is the surrender that Jesus spoke of. It is only when your old self dies that the new self created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness can live. But what an exchange! The seed has to be buried deep in good soil before it can germinate to new fruit-bearing life. It is a ridiculous and ugly thought that God's grace is given to us to exploit for sinful indulgence. When you came to Christ, you laid down your old self and were joined to Christ. In so doing, God counts your old condemned sinful self as having died with Jesus on the cross. In this way, the claim and power of death over us is broken and, in the same way that death could no longer hold Jesus, it can no longer hold you in its tyranny. Long live the new 'you', child of God.

The remarkable thing is that you don't have to wait until the end of this life to live in the power of Jesus' resurrection – if you are 'in Christ', that life has already begun and will never end. It will carry on long after your temporary physical body has died – when we put off the perishable and swap it for an eternal body like that of Jesus. We must remind ourselves every day that our old self has died, so that we no longer live under sin, but for God as His child.



SWITCH ON AND GO

Father God, it is astonishing that You already see that I am dead to the power and the claim of sin because of the death and resurrection of Your Son! Help me to live for You today, that I may know Your holiness and eternal life. Amen.



TRUTH IN CHRIST

'So, my brothers, you also died to the law through the body of Christ, that you might belong to another, to him who was raised from the dead, in order that we might bear fruit to God' (Rom. 7:4)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read Romans 7:1–25

CHECK CONNECTIONS

I know that nothing good lives in my sinful fleshly nature

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

The death of my old condemned self means I am no longer under the power of sin and death

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

My connection with Christ means I can now bear fruit to God

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

PLUG IN

Even when we are in Christ we still face daily pulls and challenges from the fallen world in which we live. We have three powerful adversaries: the 'world' (attitudes, behaviour and systems), the 'flesh' (our weak sinful natures) and the devil (the fallen Archangel Lucifer who rebelled against God). In Romans 7 Paul talks about our inner battle with our sinful fleshly nature. Although our old condemned self has died, the fleshly body in which we live for the present still tries to bring us back into the old way of sinful passions controlling us.

The power of God comes to us in Christ as, each day, we count the old condemned 'self' as dead – this places the passions and sinful desires in the 'Blue' terminal of our lives and so neutralises their power over us. Paul reminds us what we need to say to the old condemned self: 'I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me' (Gal. 2:20).

You can expect every day to be a battle – the sinful nature of this fleshly body tussling with your new life in Christ as a child of God. If you don't experience this battle, which is experienced by all who are 'in Christ', either you don't recognise it or you are nearly in heaven and already perfect! Sadly, this tussle is not something that stops as you become more mature in Christ. The nature of the battles and temptations may change, but you must still daily wage the inner war as a child of God, knowing you can win' (see Ephesians 4:17–32, Romans 6:6–7).

SWITCH ON AND GO

Lord Jesus, thank You for a way through this daily inner struggle. Please fill me with Your Spirit and help me to win the daily battle for the glory of my Father. Amen.



BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST
TO APPLY

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE
OF LOVE AND
SERVICE



TRUTH IN CHRIST:

'Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death' (Rom. 8:1-2)

POWER IN CHRIST:

Read Romans 8:1-18

CHECK CONNECTIONS:

Circle your response on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = disagree; 10 = agree):

BLUE
PERSONAL ISSUE

I want to put to death the misdeeds of my old sinful nature

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

BROWN
TRUTH IN CHRIST TO APPLY

I know that I am God's child and co-heir with Christ

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

EARTH
IN REAL LIFE OF LOVE AND SERVICE

I am not obliged to my sinful nature, but to live for the glory of Father God

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10



PLUG IN:

Your Father God's character is totally holy, totally just, totally faithful, totally truthful and full of grace. He is also omniscient (all knowing), omnipotent (all powerful) and omnipresent (everywhere). These infinite qualities are what make Him God. Isn't it wonderful to have Him as our 'Abba, Father'! Knowing that we are finite beings, limited in so many ways, makes us feel very small – but remember, in Christ, we are children of God!

In Christ, you have been placed out of the sphere of guilt and shame and into the new sphere where 'there is now no condemnation'! This is all part and parcel of the new person you are ... in Christ. This does not change – once a child of God, always a child of God. Your old condemned self lived in fear and aspired to mere earthly goals that can never bring fulfilment, even when accomplished. The new 'you' is made alive to God by His Spirit who testifies that you have indeed been given the Spirit of sonship. Child of God, your identity, value and purpose are all wrapped up in this fact.

You can tell that a bird is a bird because it flies, that a pig is a pig because it loves the mud and grunts! You can tell that a person is from a particular country by the language they speak. People should look at your life and speech and be able to tell that you have been made alive by the Spirit of God and fight a daily battle against the tendencies of the old sinful nature. Can they? Can you?



SWITCH ON AND GO

Father God, 'thank You' seems inadequate when I realise what You have done for me! I praise You that You no longer see me as someone under condemnation, but as made new in Christ. Help me to live by Your Spirit. Amen.

THE VERDICT



TRUTH IN CHRIST

'Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. Who is he that condemns? Christ Jesus, who died – more than that, who was raised to life – is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us' (Rom. 8:33–34)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read Romans 8:18–39

CHECK CONNECTIONS:

Circle your response on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = disagree; 10 = agree):

In my deepest struggles, the Holy Spirit prays for me

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

God plans for me to become like Jesus and share His glory with me

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Nothing on earth can separate me from God's love in Christ Jesus

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

BLUE
PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN
TRUTH IN CHRIST TO APPLY

EARTH
IN REAL LIFE OF LOVE AND SERVICE



PLUG IN:

How do you feel when you realise that God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit are all for you! Your Father says He is for you, so who can be against you? Jesus is now at the right hand of God speaking up for you because He gave His life for you. The Holy Spirit helps you in your weakness and also intercedes on your behalf. In Christ, you are more than a conqueror – that means, because you are identified with Christ and His victory, you are in a position where you cannot lose! God saw you ahead of time and committed to make you one of His.

Why is it then that we sometimes get into a downward spiral and feel like throwing in the towel? Perhaps you have had a moment of weakness or allowed sin to gain the upper hand, dragging you back into condemnation? Don't let it – remember who you are and all God's promises to you. Even when you do stumble and sin (not that this should tempt you to do so – God forbid!) provision has been made for you in Christ.

If we claim to be without sin, we are deceived. If we confess our sins, Jesus is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from ALL unrighteousness (see 1 John 1:9). Jesus, in His extraordinary grace, always speaks up for us. So live in the love of God and know that nothing can separate you from Him in Christ – He died for all your sin, so give your all to Him.

SWITCH ON AND GO

Father, Son and Holy Spirit – I am totally in Your debt and totally in the grip of Your grace. Thank You that You will never let me go. Help me to live a life connected to You and know many victories as You change me from glory to glory. Amen.





TRUTH IN CHRIST

'For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me' (Phil. 1:21–22)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read Philippians 1:3–30

CHECK CONNECTIONS:

Circle your response on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = disagree; 10 = agree):

I want Christ to 'be exalted in my body' as I die to self each day

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I give full permission for Christ to be in the driving seat of my life

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

My life is a gift and I want to be fruitful for God for the rest of my days

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST TO APPLY

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE OF LOVE AND SERVICE



PLUG IN:

Paul was the total turn-around man! Think back to what he was, and then to what he had become by the time he wrote to the Philippians. From his experience of living a transformed and empowered life in Christ, he says this about you: '... being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus' (Phil. 1:6). Christ gives us confidence to press into the presence of God and live this life.

Over these past fifteen days much time has been spent thinking about the blue terminal of our power connections – the need to have all of the old self-reliance in the negative terminal of life neutralised. Jesus earthed His life of love and sacrifice for you, ultimately dying for you so that you might earth your love for Him in bearing the fruit of love and service to others. However, if this is achieved only with the blue and earth terminals connected we are no more than 'nice' people! For the transformation to be complete we need to have Christ in the brown terminal of our lives too, to see His power at work in and through us.

Paul describes this as a 'mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory' (Col.1:27). We 'have been given fulness in Christ, who is Head over every power and authority' (Col. 2:10). Have you come to the place where you are so one with Christ that you can say, 'For me, to live is Christ and to die is gain'? This is where maturity in Christ takes us.

SWITCH ON AND GO

Lord Jesus Christ, I want to settle for nothing less than the best connection with You. May I be so thoroughly joined to You that Your power is at work in me every day, so I will be able to bear fruit until You take me home. Amen.





TRUTH IN CHRIST

'His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness' (2 Pet. 1:3)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read 2 Peter 1: 2–11

CHECK CONNECTIONS:

Circle your response on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = disagree; 10 = agree):

I keep free from the corruption of the world and its evil desires

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

The power that God gives me through Jesus Christ is all I need for life

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I don't want to be ineffective and unproductive as a disciple of Christ Jesus

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

PLUG IN:

Jesus came to set you free for an abundant life in Him – this is the truth on which to build your life. When your life is properly wired you will find that the power of God flows within you so that you can be who He has made you to be and do what He wants you to do. In Christ, there is no part of your life that cannot bear fruit for God through the power of Christ and there is no part that is to be barren or out of bounds to Him. Our lives in Christ should be lives of increase and addition.

As a child of God, the way you should 'do life' is in Christ. The entirety of your life is to be an act of worship – Paul describes it as being a 'living sacrifice'. If you are single – are you 'doing' work and pleasure, pain and gain, sickness and health, all in the power of Christ, with Him and for Him? If you are married – in addition to these, are you 'doing' the part of a husband or wife and (if you have the blessing of children) of a parent as acts of worship for the glory of God in the strength He supplies?

We are not to lapse into selfish living, but to go for all things in the power of God and enjoy all these things with Him. Doing them for Him is all part of the fruitful, godly living He looks for in His children. Are you a great example to your own children and to younger Christians? Do you encourage them, especially your own children, in their walk with God? A rich welcome awaits those who walk through this life confident in their calling and election in Christ, as children of God.

SWITCH ON AND GO

Father God, let my life be one of worship to You – a living sacrifice that delights You. Thank You that You give me divine power so that I can participate in Your divine nature through Christ Your Son, my Saviour. Hallelujah! Amen.



BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST
TO APPLY

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE
OF LOVE AND
SERVICE



TRUTH IN CHRIST

'Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armour of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes' (Eph. 6:10–11)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read Ephesians 6:10–18

CHECK CONNECTIONS:

Circle your response on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = disagree; 10 = agree):

As a disciple of Jesus, I know I am engaged in a daily struggle with the enemy of God

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I can be strong 'in the Lord' whenever there is a personal attack on me

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I choose to put on the full armour of God for the challenges of today

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST
TO APPLY

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE
OF LOVE AND
SERVICE



PLUG IN:

Being connected to Christ is the abundant life but it also means you have a powerful enemy in the devil, that fallen angel who detests God's creation and His people. Yet God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit have this covered too – you have every blessing and protection in Christ. Hence the importance of putting on your spiritual armour each day. 'In Christ' you cannot lose because He has already won the battle on your behalf.

The helmet of salvation keeps you strong in the knowledge you are saved; the breastplate of righteousness replaces your old sinfulness; the belt of truth tells you that you are in Christ; the shield of faith is thick enough to withstand any onslaught from the devil, even flaming arrows of doubt; your footwear enables you to move swiftly and lightly with the Good News, without stumbling; the sword is none other than the mighty Word of God against whom nothing can stand. On top of all this, you are given the Holy Spirit of God to fight alongside you.

When you feel weak, realise that this is because you really are in a battle. Being a Christian is no walk in the park; it is an epic journey across difficult terrain. Yet you will get through every day of this journey 'in Christ'. If you go into the day in your own strength, you're setting yourself up for spiritual failure and disappointment. Take ground for God today by living in this truth: 'I can do everything through him [Christ] who gives me strength' (Phil. 4:13). Armour or no armour? You choose, it's there for you to use.

SWITCH ON AND GO

Dear Lord Jesus, thank You that because You went through the deepest conflict I can now take my stand against the devil's schemes today and every day in Your strength and mighty power. Amen.



BEARING FRUIT



TRUTH IN CHRIST

'No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognised by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thorn-bushes, or grapes from briars' (Luke 6:43–44)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read Luke 6:43–49

CHECK CONNECTIONS

Circle your response on a scale of 1 to 10 (1 = disagree; 10 = agree):

The fruit in my life is recognisable as that of a disciple of Christ

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I want my heart to store up good things from Christ

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

I want to be a wise person putting into practice the words of Jesus

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST TO APPLY

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE OF LOVE AND SERVICE



PLUG IN

From as early as Genesis we know that our Father is the God of the increase. He makes living things to multiply and reproduce the original excellent design. Every time something bears fruit it does so to the glory of The Designer. This is true of plants, trees, fish, birds, animals ... and people, whom God made in His likeness to be in relationship with Him and each other. We will consider now the good fruit we bear through being in Christ.

Every disciple of Christ has the seed of the Good News sown in their heart and should therefore bear good crops. We will be disciples who make disciples in obedience to Christ's Great Commission – His mission becomes ours. We are prayerful, joyful, loving and grow to become mature in Christ. We bear a likeness to Him in our characters and in our speech. The fruit of the Spirit is seen in our lives (see Galatians 5:22–23), along with faith, knowledge, perseverance and godliness (see 2 Peter 1:5–8).

As well as this 'general' fruit, there are some specific 'works' that God has prepared in advance especially for you to do – this is how much He trusts you and wants you to be involved with Him in this adventure of life. There are people only you will meet, situations only you will find yourself in and tasks for which you are uniquely equipped through your God-given talents and life experience. Jesus tells us to bear much fruit through our connection to Him and the power of His gift, The Holy Spirit.

SWITCH ON AND GO

Dear Father, thank You that I will bear much fruit as I remain in Christ. Send Your Spirit to me today to help me change to become like Jesus, Your Son, and to do the specific works You have for me in Your strength. Amen.





TRUTH IN CHRIST

'Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ' (Eph. 1:3)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read Ephesians 1:3–14

CHECK CONNECTIONS

BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

I know it is Jesus who has redeemed me through His blood – His forgiveness is lavish grace indeed

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST TO APPLY

All the promises of God in Christ are sealed in me by the Holy Spirit

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE OF LOVE AND SERVICE

My privilege is to live for the praise of the glory of God and to enjoy Him forever as His child

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**



PLUG IN

God has spoken incredible things over your life as a child of His in Christ. Not only has He chosen you to be holy and blameless in His sight, but He has worked out the most detailed plan to bring it about. Although you are only part way through, God is going to work out all the remainder in line with His purposes for you so that you will 'be for the praise of His glory' (Eph. 1:12). Don't be in any doubt about His promise or His ability to complete it – He has given you His word.

Not only this, but you have also been given the Holy Spirit as a down payment, a deposit. He, the Holy Spirit, validates the promise of God to those in Christ by His presence in our lives, by the very fact that we have been born again and are open to God rather than hostile, as we were before our hearts were softened. He proves that we are God's children and secures eternal life for us, in Christ. Through our connection to Christ, the power of God flows to us in the person of the Holy Spirit who comes to live within us.

The power of Christ's victory on the cross has secured for us the right to be called children of God and to have the power of the Holy Spirit within us as a daily and abiding reality. The Holy Spirit is transforming you from one degree of glory to another – His work now gives us a foretaste of the total change that is coming in eternity. Thank God that He doesn't leave us to make it alone in this life, but joins us to Himself through His Son and His Spirit and gives us every spiritual blessing.



SWITCH ON AND GO

Generous and wonderful Father, thank You that You have lavished such love upon me that I can be called Your child and receive every spiritual blessing in Christ Jesus. Amen.



TRUTH IN CHRIST

'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go!' (Luke 10:2–3)

POWER IN CHRIST

Read Luke 9:57–10:16

CHECK CONNECTIONS

BLUE

PERSONAL ISSUE

When Jesus says 'Go' into His harvest field, I must go and not turn back from the mission He has given me

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

BROWN

TRUTH IN CHRIST
TO APPLY

I can be confident that the Lord of the harvest will give me my share of it and equip me for the task

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**

EARTH

IN REAL LIFE
OF LOVE AND
SERVICE

If you are given sharp, new and easy-to-use tools to go into the harvest, will you go?

Circle your answer: **Yes** **No** **Uncertain**



PLUG IN

Jesus came on a mission of mercy for you, so that you might be connected to Him, to His life, to His power and to His mission. This is all part of the enormous life-changing privilege that it is to be 'in Christ' – we cannot be selective and think that it is only for some disciples to bear fruit; the Great Commission is for all of us. Jesus knows the condition of the harvest better than any farmer – the fields are ripe and it's time to go into them.

“My food,” said Jesus, “is to do the will of him who sent me and to finish his work I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest. Even now the reaper draws his wages, even now he harvests the crop for eternal life, so that the sower and the reaper may be glad together ... I sent you to reap what you have not worked for. Others have done the hard work, and you have reaped the benefits of their labour” (John 4:34—36,38).

Jesus promises to be with us to the end of the age, so we don't need to go it alone! We have the Holy Spirit, God's own Word and fellow Christians. How people respond to us is not our responsibility; our responsibility is to go wherever He sends us. Two new tools to use with those who are 'unconnected' or 'disconnected' are available for you to use – contact www.connect4life.org.uk for details. However you do it – be sure to bear fruit for God in Christ, in His power and for His mission!



SWITCH ON AND GO

Father, Son and Holy Spirit, You are worthy of all glory, honour and power. Help me now to remain in You, Christ Jesus, that Your words may remain in me and I may bear much fruit as Your disciple for the glory of God. Amen.