

**5-Minute
Faith
Builders
for Men**

Bob Barnes



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Making Big Choices of Life

If any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask of God, who gives to all men generously and without reproach, and it will be given to him.

JAMES 1:5

Our world is full of men who have an abundance of knowledge, but there are few of us who have wisdom. Knowledge is horizontal. Wisdom is vertical—it comes down from above.

BILLY GRAHAM

I have found that any wisdom I may have is that which I have gained from the holy Scriptures. Anything else would be counted as knowledge. Knowledge is much easier and faster to acquire than wisdom. Gaining wisdom is a lifelong pursuit and cannot be attained in a college class or through a search on the Internet.

The Bible is full of wonderful assurances and promises for all who believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. But each person must accept Jesus as his own Savior before he can claim these promises personally. How can these promises be yours? The Bible says that you must—

- *Recognize* you cannot be saved by trying to be good, or because you are doing the best you can, or because you are a member of a social or religious

organization. God says we are not saved by our good works.

By grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9).

- *Confess* that you cannot save yourself, that you are a guilty sinner worthy of God's righteous judgment, and that you are hopelessly lost without the Lord Jesus Christ as your personal Savior.

If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you shall be saved; for with the heart man believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation (Romans 10:9-10).

- *Believe* the good news that Jesus died for the ungodly (Romans 5:8). He also died for you and settled your sin debt by His death on Calvary's cross. Believe the blessed news that Christ was raised from the dead and now lives to save all who will come to Him in faith.

He [Jesus] is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them (Hebrews 7:25).

- *Call* on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ with a sincere desire to be saved from your sins. God has promised that "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (Romans 10:13 KJV).

- *Rely* upon God's sure promise, not upon your feelings. By faith declare you are saved by the blood of Jesus Christ, shed for the forgiveness of your sins. Openly confess Him as your Lord and Savior.

God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life (John 3:16).

If you have never put your faith in Jesus as your personal Savior, I encourage you to do it right now in the quietness of your own heart.



Prayer

Father God, I realize I'm a sinner and separated from You. I open my heart to receive You as my personal Savior and Lord. I know You will forgive me of my sins. I want You to be my mentor and to give me guidance and purpose for life. I want You to be the Potter, and I will be the clay. Mold me and make me in Your own way. Amen.



ACTION

Action

Settle your status with Jesus. Confessing your sins, invite God into your heart.



Today's Wisdom

"I went to Africa that I might be able to sin to my heart's content. I was a wild beast on the coast of Africa till the Lord caught and tamed me."

JOHN NEWTON



Handling Small Things in a Big Way

*It is better to have little and be godly
than to own an evil man's wealth; for the
strength of evil men shall be broken, but the
Lord takes care of those he has forgiven.*

PSALM 37:16-17 TLB

When we come to the Lord, He wants all of us, not just a bit here and a bit there. When we are new believers we aren't sure if we can trust this God in our lives. After all, we have no previous track record, and we're not sure He is capable of doing all He says He can do. So we give Him a little of this and a little of that, but that's not going to "cut the mustard." As we grow, we learn that God is asking more of us than we may have previously thought. Our faith is more than just a Sunday kind of faith.

In the following story, an Alcoholics Anonymous patron tells of his experience in giving to God all He asks for:

After falling off the wagon and after sobering up, my sponsor told me I had to be willing to change everything about my life—everything! So, I wore blue jeans before and I switched to a nice pair of slacks. I previously wore Western shirts and I

switched to a plaid, collared, buttoned-up-the-front long-sleeve shirt. But the one thing I just couldn't give up was my cowboy boots.

I softly went to my sponsor and said in a very gentle fashion, "Surely I won't get drunk over a silly pair of cowboy boots. I'm willing to change a lot of things, and if needed I could even give up those boots, but it seems so silly."

My good-ol'-boy sponsor said, "I don't know how silly it is or if you'll get drunk over those cowboy boots, but I can tell you are not 'entirely' willing, though."

"Okay, okay," I said. "I'll prove it to you. I'll give up the boots for 30 days just to demonstrate my willingness to God." So I bought a pair of tennis shoes, and after 30 days of not wearing my boots, the strangest thing happened—my feet stopped hurting.

That's how it was getting sober and giving up the fast track of life. I never stopped to think that the boots were causing my feet to hurt, or the booze was causing my life to hurt. I got willing to give up the stuff, one day at a time, for 30 days, then 60 days, then 90 days...and my life stopped hurting.

Every day I do something different. Some change in some small way occurs in my life. Maybe I just put my socks on in a different fashion or drive to work in a new way. Every day I try to do little things in a big way so that when big things happen I can handle them in a little way.¹

Who would have thought that a change in shoes would make such a difference? Is God asking you to change shoes? If not that, what? Each of us is being nudged by God to make a change. Not until we say "yes" to God are we going to get some relief from our pain. We must be willing to change our boots.



Prayer

Father God, if You tell me to change boots I'm willing and ready to change. I know that You have my good in front of You. I trust You with my life. I want to be the man You want me to become. Amen.



Action

Ask God what boots He wants you to surrender...and then go buy a new pair of “tennis shoes”—that is, take off what God has asked you to let go of and take hold of what He has asked you to pick up.



Today's Wisdom

Say “no” to good things and save your “yeses” for the best.