

## ***“Yet I hold this against you: you have forsaken your first love.”***

Jesus of Nazareth to the Church – Revelation 2 – 96 A.D.

### **AN INSIGHT:**

The lid came off the saltshaker as I was seasoning the hamburger. Four plus ounces of salt instantly transforms one pound of meat! I was upset... what a waste. “Look again,” I sensed, “observe the way the salt transforms.” I pondered: one-third pound of salt definitely changes one pound of meat! Yet, on any given Sunday, a little more than one-third of America is in a church, yet the nation continues to decline. “If salt loses its saltiness ...”

### **AT ISSUE**

Prior to returning Home, Jesus did not ask us to make *church members*. There are too many church members – folks mostly passive, on committees doing the work of the church, paying their dues, living unnoticed, relying on others (usually the pastor) to do the thinking ... ministry. Has the Great Commission, in far too many local churches, become the Great Omission? Church members are leaving congregations in search of flavor – God flavors – to spice up their lives, families and neighborhoods!

### **A TEST**

Are you hungry and thirsty for the God-Life, but live unsatisfied? Do you grow weary of religious ritual that denies your Real-Life? Is life a burden to live due to unreasonable demands placed by your church? Have you longed to connect the “Faith of Jesus” to your daily experience where you live, work and play? What about your joy, patience and contentment?

### **A STRATEGY**

The Master commanded us to *make disciples*! This made sense to the first Jesus-followers since a *disciple* is an apprentice, someone learning from the Master. The Church is to train people in living everyday life in keeping with the practices and patterns of Jesus. We do this by learning the words and ways of the Christ. How would Jesus be a mechanic? How would Jesus troubleshoot computer networks? How would Jesus work in the corporate world? When did we accept the idea that being a Christian isolates us from our everyday lives – where we live, work and play?

### **PUTTING IT ALL INTO PRACTICE**

This is NOT “what would Jesus do?” but “What is Jesus doing?” We believe that Jesus said what he meant and means what he says. And, we believe that immersing ourselves into the words/ways of Jesus by engaging the stories of the Gospels is what it takes to train as his disciple. We’ve discovered such immersion is transformative. Learning from the Teacher how to “walk the walk and talk the talk” in keeping with his thoughts and patterns is simply taking him at his word and invitation. Our immersion and subsequent practice of everything that Jesus teaches takes shape in a small community of two or three dedicated to living their lives as practiced by the Master. We are looking for those longing to be more than church members, but *disciples* living without the overhead and the walls—with Christ.

### **DOES IT WORK? A TESTIMONY...**

“The learning that comes from our time with CWOW enables us to carry out our God-given desires, which come in many different forms. The form for us is through a ministry we call As You Go – a small group of individuals serving the Volunteers of America Mission in downtown Denver three times a month to share stories and music of Father with the gentlemen and ladies who are homeless. We also make available ponderings – what we call *Breaths* – via mp3 files, regarding God’s interactions with His creation. And, we love writing and performing original music. We know, through feedback from many, that what we are doing comes from God and that we are participating with Him.”

### **YES, IT WORKS! ANOTHER TESTIMONY...**

“Service ... Jesus served others with his whole life. So, we at HP Automotive strive to serve others in the best way we know how – the Jesus Way! In the automotive repair industry, this is becoming a lost art. As the prices of parts, shop supplies, and overhead have gone up exponentially over the last few years, many shop owners have concerned themselves strictly with bottom line numbers. I approach my business with the attitude and teachings of the Master, treating my customers as a brother or sister. Fair pricing and honest assessments of the job at hand are key. Unlike some shops, we don’t feel we have to fix every car. Training customers to make better choices about their cars or about life in general is the way we do business.”

### **OUR OFFER**

Imagine a return to your “first love,” taking on the Life-shape of Jesus. Imagine a journey with like-minded sisters and brothers in Christ learning from the Master to live everyday lives with meaning, contentment, understanding and Spiritual awareness. Imagine hearing the Father speak with humbleness and humility and you responding. Imagine a community of deeply rooted friends gathered around the Living Christ. Is this possible? Yes! You can ask Rick and Steve of As You Go at [www.asyougoinfo.com](http://www.asyougoinfo.com) or you can contact Don with HP Automotive at 303-237-6665 (stop by 6505 W. Alameda #B).

We are the “priesthood of all believers” in the mission known as

# **THE CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS**

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