

# *Convinced*

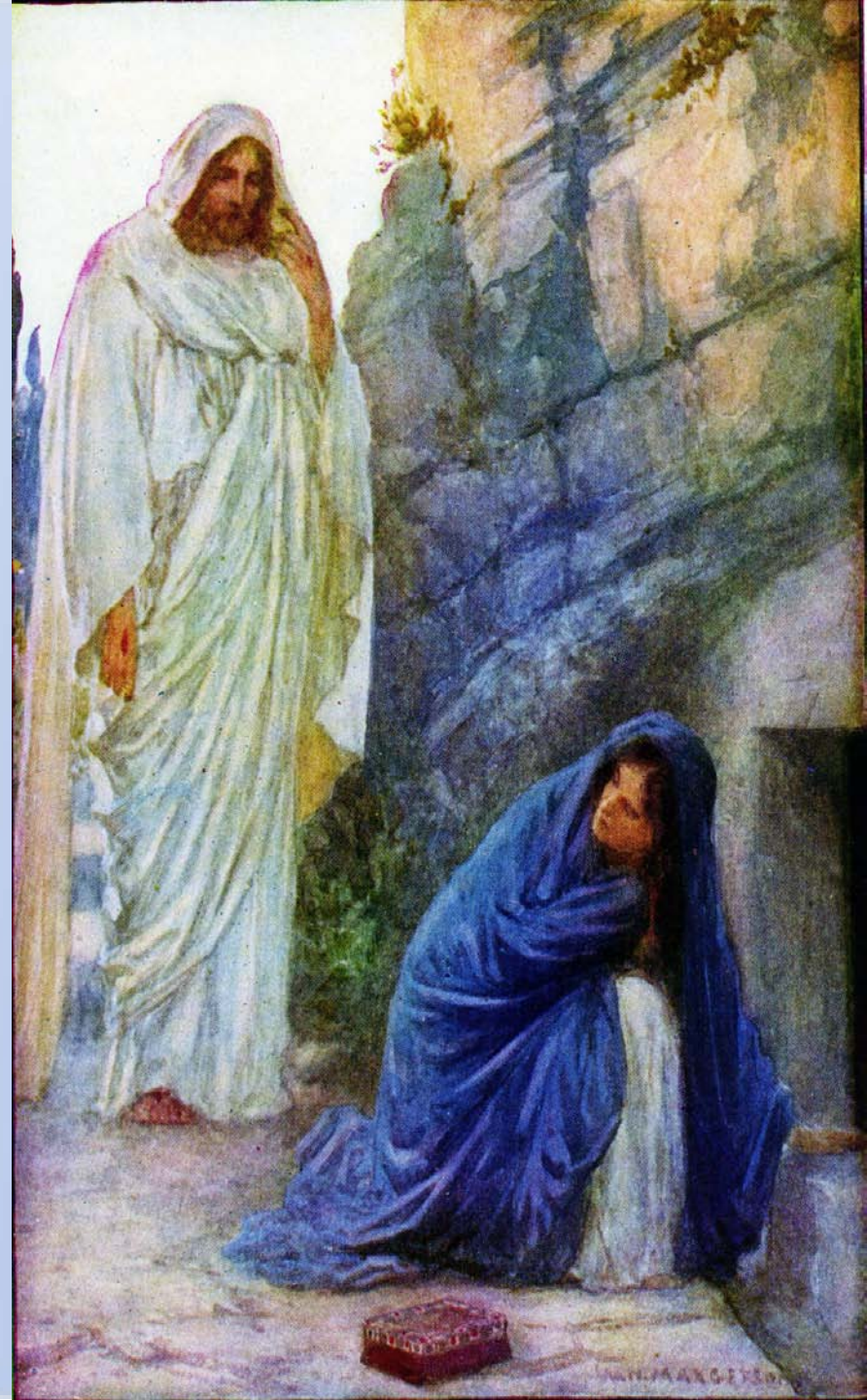
*Acts 9:1-19a*





Have  
You  
Met  
Jesus?

*John 20:16*



*<sup>1</sup>Meanwhile, Saul was uttering threats with every breath and was eager to kill the Lord's followers. So he went to the high priest. <sup>2</sup>He requested letters addressed to the synagogues in Damascus, asking for their cooperation in the arrest of any followers of the Way he found there. He wanted to bring them—both men and women—back to Jerusalem in chains.*

*Acts 9:1, 2 <sup>NLT</sup>*

<sup>3</sup>As he was approaching Damascus on this mission,  
a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him.  
<sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him,  
“Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?”  
<sup>5</sup>“Who are you, lord?” Saul asked. And the voice  
replied, “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!”  
<sup>6</sup>Now get up and go into the city, and you will be  
told what you must do.”

Acts 9:3-6 <sup>NLT</sup>

*<sup>7</sup>The men with Saul stood speechless,  
for they heard the sound of someone's voice but saw  
no one! <sup>8</sup>Saul picked himself up off the ground,  
but when he opened his eyes he was blind. So his  
companions led him by the hand to Damascus.  
<sup>9</sup>He remained there blind for three days  
and did not eat or drink.*

*Acts 9:7-9 <sup>NLT</sup>*

*<sup>10</sup>Now there was a believer in Damascus named Ananias. The Lord spoke to him in a vision, calling, “Ananias!” “Yes, Lord!” he replied. <sup>11</sup>The Lord said, “Go over to Straight Street, to the house of Judas. When you get there, ask for a man from Tarsus named Saul. He is praying to me right now. <sup>12</sup>I have shown him a vision of a man named Ananias coming in and laying hands on him so he can see again.”*

*Acts 9:10-12 <sup>NLT</sup>*

*<sup>13</sup> “But Lord,” exclaimed Ananias,  
“I’ve heard many people talk about the terrible things  
this man has done to the believers in Jerusalem!  
<sup>14</sup>And he is authorized by the leading priests to arrest  
everyone who calls upon your name.” <sup>15</sup>But the Lord  
said, “Go, for Saul is my chosen instrument to take my  
message to the Gentiles and to kings, as well as to the  
people of Israel. <sup>16</sup>And I will show him how much he  
must suffer for my name’s sake.”*

*Acts 9:13-16 <sup>NLT</sup>*

*17* So Ananias went and found Saul. He laid his hands on him and said, “Brother Saul, the Lord Jesus, who appeared to you on the road, has sent me so that you might regain your sight and be filled with the Holy Spirit.” *18* Instantly something like scales fell from Saul’s eyes, and he regained his sight. Then he got up and was baptized. *19* Afterward he ate some food and regained his strength. Saul stayed with the believers in Damascus for a few days.

*Acts 9:17-19a* <sup>NLT</sup>

*<sup>3</sup>As he was approaching Damascus on this mission,  
a light from heaven suddenly shone down around him.  
<sup>4</sup>He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him,  
“Saul! Saul! Why are you persecuting me?”  
<sup>5</sup>“Who are you, lord?” Saul asked. And the voice  
replied, “I am Jesus, the one you are persecuting!”*

*Acts 9:3-5 NLT*



If you declare with your  
mouth, "Jesus is Lord,"  
and believe in your heart that  
God raised him from the  
dead, you will be saved --

Romans 10:9

*<sup>1</sup>Whatever happens, my dear brothers and sisters, rejoice in the Lord. I never get tired of telling you these things, and I do it to safeguard your faith.*

*<sup>2</sup>Watch out for those dogs, those people who do evil, those mutilators who say you must be circumcised to be saved. <sup>3</sup>For we who worship by the Spirit of God are the ones who are truly circumcised.*

*Philippians 3:1-3a <sup>NLT</sup>*

*We rely on what Christ Jesus has done for us.*

*We put no confidence in human effort,  
4though I could have confidence in my own effort  
if anyone could. Indeed, if others have reason for  
confidence in their own efforts, I have even more!*

*Philippians 3:3b, 4<sup>NLT</sup>*

*<sup>5</sup>I was circumcised when I was eight days old. I am a pure-blooded citizen of Israel and a member of the tribe of Benjamin—a real Hebrew if there ever was one! I was a member of the Pharisees, who demand the strictest obedience to the Jewish law. <sup>6</sup>I was so zealous that I harshly persecuted the church. And as for righteousness, I obeyed the law without fault.*

*Philippians 3:5, 6 <sup>NLT</sup>*

*<sup>7</sup>I once thought these things were valuable, but now I consider them worthless because of what Christ has done. <sup>8</sup>Yes, everything else is worthless when compared with the infinite value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have discarded everything else, counting it all as garbage, so that I could gain Christ <sup>9</sup>and become one with him.*

*Philippians 3:7-9a <sup>NLT</sup>*

*I no longer count on my own righteousness through obeying the law; rather, I become righteous through faith in Christ. For God's way of making us right with himself depends on faith. <sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, <sup>11</sup>so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!*

*Philippians 3:9b-11 <sup>NLT</sup>*

One  
Hundred %  
Committed ?

*Matthew 25:40*



*<sup>10</sup>I want to know Christ and experience the mighty power that raised him from the dead. I want to suffer with him, sharing in his death, <sup>11</sup>so that one way or another I will experience the resurrection from the dead!*

*Philippians 3:10, 11 <sup>NLT</sup>*

*<sup>6</sup>So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. <sup>7</sup>For we live by believing and not by seeing. <sup>8</sup>Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord. <sup>9</sup>So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to please him. <sup>10</sup>For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.*

*2 Corinthians 5:6-10 <sup>NLT</sup>*

Casual Christians . . .

attend church regularly

\_\_\_\_\_ what is \_\_\_\_\_

like to \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_

think that total \_\_\_\_\_ is for \_\_\_\_\_

rarely \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_

feel good if they are \_\_\_\_\_ than the

\_\_\_\_\_

love is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

think more about \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_

*The Lord says:*

*"These people come near to me with their mouth  
and honor me with their lips, but their hearts are  
far from me. Their worship of me is made up  
only of rules taught by men.*

*Isaiah 29:13 <sup>NIV</sup>*

## Casual Christians . . .

attend church regularly

give what is convenient

like to \_\_\_\_\_ with the \_\_\_\_\_

think that total \_\_\_\_\_ is for \_\_\_\_\_

rarely \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_

feel good if they are \_\_\_\_\_ than the

\_\_\_\_\_

love is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

think more about \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_

*<sup>1</sup>As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. <sup>2</sup>He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. <sup>3</sup>"I tell you the truth," he said, "this poor widow has put in more than all the others. <sup>4</sup>All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on."*

*Luke 21:1-4 <sup>NIV</sup>*

*61 Another said, “Yes, Lord, I will follow you,  
but first let me say good-bye to my family.”*

*62 But Jesus told him, “Anyone who puts a hand to the  
plow and then looks back is not fit  
for the Kingdom of God.”*

*Luke 9:61, 62 <sup>NLT</sup>*

*<sup>37</sup>Jesus replied,*

*“You must love the LORD your God  
with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.”*

*<sup>38</sup>This is the first and greatest commandment.*

*Matthew 22:37, 38 <sup>NLT</sup>*

*<sup>21</sup>The man replied, “I’ve carefully obeyed all these commandments since I was young.” <sup>22</sup>When Jesus heard his answer, he said, “There is still one thing you haven’t done. Sell all your possessions and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.” <sup>23</sup>But when the man heard this he became sad, for he was very rich.*

*Luke 18:21-23 <sup>NLT</sup>*

## Casual Christians . . .

attend church regularly

give what is convenient

like to fit in with the crowd

think that total \_\_\_\_\_ is for \_\_\_\_\_

rarely \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_

feel good if they are \_\_\_\_\_ than the

\_\_\_\_\_

love is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

think more about \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_

*<sup>5</sup>“Everything they do is for show. On their arms they wear extra wide prayer boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra long tassels. <sup>6</sup>And they love to sit at the head table at banquets and in the seats of honor in the synagogues. <sup>7</sup>They love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces, and to be called ‘Rabbi.’*

*Matthew 23:5-7 <sup>NLT</sup>*

## Casual Christians . . .

attend church regularly

give what is convenient

like to fit in with the crowd

think that total obedience is for missionaries

rarely \_\_\_\_\_ their \_\_\_\_\_

feel good if they are \_\_\_\_\_ than the

\_\_\_\_\_

love is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

think more about \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_

*But don't just listen to God's word.  
You must do what it says. Otherwise,  
you are only fooling yourselves.*

*James 1:22 <sup>NLT</sup>*

## Casual Christians . . .

attend church regularly

give what is convenient

like to fit in with the crowd

think that total obedience is for missionaries

rarely share their faith

feel good if they are \_\_\_\_\_ than the

\_\_\_\_\_

love is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

think more about \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_

*32 “Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. 33 But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.*

*Matthew 10:32, 33 NLT*

*28 “Don’t be afraid of those who want to kill your body; they cannot touch your soul. Fear only God, who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*

*Matthew 10:28 NLT*

## Casual Christians . . .

attend church regularly

give what is convenient

like to fit in with the crowd

think that total obedience is for missionaries

rarely share their faith

feel good if they are better than the

next guy

love is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

think more about \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_

*<sup>11</sup>The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed this prayer:  
“I thank you, God, that I am not a sinner like everyone  
else. For I don’t cheat, I don’t sin, and I don’t commit  
adultery. I’m certainly not like that tax collector!*

*<sup>12</sup>I fast twice a week, and I give you a tenth  
of my income.”*

*Luke 18:11, 12 <sup>NLT</sup>*

*21 “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter.*

*22 On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’*

*23 But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’”*

*Matthew 7:21-23 <sup>NLT</sup>*

*<sup>25</sup>“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence!*

*<sup>26</sup>You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too.*

*Matthew 23:25, 26 <sup>NLT</sup>*

*<sup>27</sup>“What sorrow awaits you teachers of religious law and you Pharisees. Hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs—beautiful on the outside but filled on the inside with dead people’s bones and all sorts of impurity. <sup>28</sup>Outwardly you look like righteous people, but inwardly your hearts are filled with hypocrisy and lawlessness.*

*Matthew 23:27, 28 <sup>NLT</sup>*

## Casual Christians . . .

*attend church regularly*

*give what is convenient*

*like to fit in with the crowd*

*think that total obedience is for missionaries*

*rarely share their faith*

*feel good if they are better than the*

*next guy*

*love is selective and conditional*

*think more about \_\_\_\_\_ than \_\_\_\_\_*

*43 “You have heard the law that says,  
‘Love your neighbor’ and hate your enemy.  
44 But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who  
persecute you! In that way, you will be acting  
as true children of your Father in heaven.*

*Matthew 5:43-45a <sup>NLT</sup>*

## Casual Christians . . .

*attend church regularly*

*give what is convenient*

*like to fit in with the crowd*

*think that total obedience is for missionaries*

*rarely share their faith*

*feel good if they are better than the*

*next guy*

*love is selective and conditional*

*think more about today than eternity*

*<sup>17</sup>Teach those who are rich in this world not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which is so unreliable. Their trust should be in God, who richly gives us all we need for our enjoyment. <sup>18</sup>Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. <sup>19</sup>By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.*

*1 Timothy 6:17-19 <sup>NLT</sup>*

*“If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were precisely those who thought most of the next.*

*It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.”*

*C.S. Lewis*