

"Read any chapter anywhere in the book in 2 minutes or less and be blessed immediately."

**Julie Woodley, MA, Division Chair
American Assoc. of Christian Counselors**

LIVE A LIFE THAT MATTERS FOR GOD



Jack Alan Levine

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GOING ALL IN (Commitment In The Christian Life)

The Fukushima 50

In 2011, there was a great tragedy in Japan—a massive earthquake followed by a killer tsunami. If that wasn't enough, there was also a nuclear meltdown. There's a group known as the Fukushima 50. They're the fifty or so guys who were told by management at the nuclear plant, "You guys are going in to fix it. You're going to be exposed to higher levels of radiation than anybody has ever been exposed to, and you're probably going to die within a few years."

Those men said, "It's our honor to go. We will save our country."

They were willing to lay down their lives for the purpose immediately and without question. They didn't say, "Let me think about it. Maybe I should. Maybe I shouldn't. Pick somebody else." All fifty of them said, "We're in. We're going. It's our honor."

Why isn't it our honor to lay down our lives and live for Jesus Christ? That is the purpose of our lives. That's why we were created—to bear fruit that will last, to make disciples, and to do the good works which God prepared in advance for us to do. We should be fulfilling this purpose of our lives.

If you're not, don't wonder why you're not happy. You're not happy because you aren't fulfilling your calling, God's purpose for you.

I was talking the other day to a buddy of mine who is a great surgeon and is widely respected by the other doctors. I asked him, "What will people say about you at your funeral? Will they be talking about what a great surgeon you were?" Then I said to him, "They shouldn't be. It would be a tragic shame if I'm at your funeral and people are talking about what a great *surgeon* you were. They'd should be talking about what a great *Christian* you were."

What "sermon" does your life preach? If there was an American Idol like TV show for Christians, and we were sitting there judging you and rating you, what would we see? Would we say, "Oh, man, he was awesome for God! He was amazing. We all give him a ten." Or would we hold up the card and say, "Him? He stank for Jesus. He struck out for Jesus. He was a waste. We all give him a two."

What does your life show for Jesus Christ? It's not about perfection. It's about how you live your life. You don't have to be a minister or pastor to preach the Word of Jesus Christ. It's about what we do with our lives, if and how they reflect Christ overall.

The Big Leagues

God wants to grant you a favor. He wants to give you everything you will ever need. You say, “Well, how do I receive this?” The answer is found in 2 Peter 1:3 and 4:

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. Through these He has given us His very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires.

It's only by the saving grace of God that you receive His power. In Ezra 7:10, it says, “Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord and to do it.” God called Ezra a man after His own heart because he prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord and to do it. He didn't just *find out* what God's law was. He *did* it.

If God looks at you and me today, will He see our hearts that way? Will He see us seeking to know His heart and being imitators of Christ? God said we are to be holy because He

is holy. We are to be imitators of Christ to the best of our earthly ability.

He's our coach. He's invited us to play for Him this season of our life we are living now on earth. Jesus was out there on the field playing the game of life just like we are. He dealt with the dust, the crowds, the curve balls, and the fast ones. And he hit the biggest home run the world has ever seen. That was on Calvary, when he took the game to a whole new level.

Now, God is our coach: pitching the balls to us, encouraging us to swing, to hit. He's practiced with us every day since we joined the team. And His vision for all of us—even though we might feel we're not cut out for it—is the big leagues.

God is there, ready to teach us and show us every step of the way. But, not only do we need to show up to hear the instruction, we need to practice it and put it into action. We should love the Coach, after all He created the game and created us to play it. He promises He will teach us how to play better. Not only does He teach us how to win if we let him, but He is personally rooting for us to win all the time!

There are people watching you. They see the times you strike out, and they see your attitude as you get excited about getting up to bat again. You don't get discouraged, and you don't quit because you struck out. This time you know you will get a hit! You know your team is going to win. You've seen the final score. God's kids win! Here on earth and forever in eternity! You know you are supposed to play the game joyfully, loving every minute of it like a little kid, and if you play with all your heart, you know at the end your Coach is going to say, "Well done!"

Pull Up

I was talking with a buddy of mine after men's ministry one day. He said, "Hey, I just got back from New Orleans on a flight, and I thought I was going to meet my maker."

I said, "What do you mean? What happened?"

He said, "We were coming into Ft. Lauderdale in this thunderstorm and it was crazy. The plane was going all over the place, and we were ten feet from landing on the runway when all of sudden the pilot pulls the plane straight up like a rocket and I've never been so scared in my life. Then we were flying around trying to come back and make the landing again."

I'm thinking to myself, "Well, the pilot was actually pretty smart because at least he did it again until he got it right. He was close the first time, about ten feet from the runway, but he obviously thought he was going to crash so he didn't land. He did it again until he got it right."

That's what we need to do. Why crash? We don't have to crash. Why don't we just keep trying until we get it right?

I believe God is saying to us very clearly, "I've given you all this. I'm not going to be satisfied with less than your best."

It's like the parable of the talents (Matthew 25:14-30) where people are challenged to invest all they have been given and trusted with by their master for the benefit of their master. It's so simple. It is basically this, "Look, you've been given this gift, this life, from God. What are you going to do with it?" You can't la-di-da through your life and think it doesn't matter or that you're going to get to it later. Now is the time. This is when it all happens. So why crash? Why not be careful and diligent and make sure you get it right...like any good pilot would and any good Christian should!

Wisdom from an NFL Coach

At the end of the 2011 football season, the Pittsburgh Steelers were about to play in a playoff game. I was intrigued most by Coach Mike Tomlin of the Steelers. When he was asked about the poor performances and the injuries that his team was facing going into the AFC conference championship game, his response to those injuries and poor performances was, “We don’t live in our fears. We live in our hopes.”

I thought, *holy cow, this is amazing*. Here’s this NFL football coach, and his team has not been playing well. They don’t know if they’re going to win or not, they’ve got injuries, and the coach is saying, “Look, we don’t live in our fears. We live in our hopes.”

Coach Mike Tomlin has it right. Sometimes we as Christians don’t get it right. Sometimes we live in our fears, and we don’t live in our hopes. We should be living in our hopes, not our fears. We know that faith is being certain of what we can’t see and sure of what we hope for. We should live in that. It struck me as funny that an NFL football coach would have it right, but we as Christians struggle with it.



Seek with All Your Heart

Psalm 95:7-9 urges us:

For He is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the sheep of His hand.

Do not harden your hearts, as in the rebellion, as in the day of trial in the wilderness, when your fathers tested Me; They tried Me, though they saw My work.

Even though they were God's people, the sheep of His pasture, they didn't believe. They tested Him, even though they had already witnessed and experienced the great work of God.

Do we do that in our Christian life? Do we see God but still feel it's necessary to try and test Him, as if we're not sure and not certain that He is indeed God, that indeed He can do what He said He can do—past, present, and future? He's the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. Oh, that our hearts would learn from these past histories. The next verses go on to say:

For forty years I was grieved with that generation and said, "It is a people who go astray in their

hearts, and they do not know My ways.” So I swore in My wrath, “They shall not enter My rest.”

God freed them from captivity in Egypt. He led them step by step all the way, yet they sadly never entered into His rest because they went astray in their hearts. Rather than following God’s purpose, they altogether missed why the Lord had brought them out. He wanted to bring them to Himself, but their hearts were far away from Him.

I pray that we may not be a people of whom God says, “They went astray,” that grieved God with our generation, and that did not know His ways. God says that the wisdom and knowledge of the Lord is more valuable than rubies and gold. We’re to seek it with all our hearts. And of course God promises when we seek Him with all our hearts, we will find Him.



Guitar Practice

When my son Jackson was almost ten, he was taking guitar lessons and I made him practice his guitar regularly. It was something that he did—not quite willingly, but he did it.

At one point he came to me and said, “Daddy, I want to quit guitar.” He always said he wanted to quit. And I said, “No, Son, that’s the one thing I’m not letting you quit until you are at least sixteen. You’re going to keep playing guitar no matter what.”

Before he went to practice one day, he looked at me (hoping to get out of practicing) and asked “Daddy, do I have to practice today?” I said, “Son, you have to practice.”

He looked at me again and asked, “Why, Daddy?” *Why, Daddy?* As if I was torturing him and subjecting him to the gas chamber, not guitar practice.

I said, “Son, when you’re sixteen years old you’re going to put your arm around me—you’ll be taller than me then, so you’ll be looking down at me—and you’ll say, ‘Dad, I just want to thank you so much that you didn’t let me quit guitar because you knew the benefits I would get from it.’”

He will be thankful when he's reaping those benefits, when he's enjoying the freedom and opportunities that come from using his talent and being able to play a musical instrument, when he's meeting people and getting other life opportunities—instead of playing video games or watching television all the time. He'll be out there in the world doing something and hopefully something that matters for the Lord.

So, he'll have those opportunities and I know when he sees those benefits (someday) he's going to thank me. The problem is, today he can't see the benefits. He doesn't see what they are, so he thinks it's torture. He's thinking, "Why am I doing this? Why do I have to learn this? This is a pain in the butt."

It's often the same way with us and God. We sit there and we ask, "Why God? Why are we going through this? Why do I have to do this?" We know what God's Word says, but we question that too.

Well, the Lord is saying right back to us, "Someday you're going to thank me for this. You don't know the benefits you're reaping in heaven and on earth through your obedience and your faith right now! You don't see the rewards you'll reap later in life and in heaven, but one day you're going to thank me, and you're going to be so grateful that I didn't let you quit."

We see it so clearly with our children, or sometimes with other people, but we often fail to connect the dots in our own lives. But God laid out clearly for me how it works in what I now call "The Parable of Jackson's Guitar Lessons."



For Christ's Sake

I was walking along the other day and I heard these guys talking. They were obviously not Christians, but you wouldn't know it by their language because every word out of their mouths was, "For Christ's sake!"

For Christ's sake this, for Christ's sake that. I'm thinking, *Oh, you going to preach it brother? Preach it!* Then I heard the rest, and I'm going, *Uh-oh, this isn't good.*

For Christ's sake this. Christ's sake that. Christ's sake, Christ's sake...

I began to think, you know what? We should be saying that—we the church, we Christians—every word that comes out of our mouths, every sentence should be, "For Christ's sake," and then we should *live like it*.

We should really do it *"for Christ's sake."*

We should live for Christ's sake. We should act and speak and do things for Christ's sake—not the way the world says it, almost as if it's a curse and a bad thing. But we should really live that way for Christ's sake.

The question I had for myself and the question I believe God has for each of us is: Who are we living for? Am I living for Jack's sake, or am I living for Christ's sake?

I think God wants you to ask yourself that question and honestly answer it. Who are you living for? Are you living for your sake, or are you living for Christ's sake?



Integrity on a Lear Jet

Our lives here on earth are like a ship sailing on the water. What happens when the water gets in the ship? The ship sinks. But when it floats on top of that water, it's fine.

That's how we're meant to live our lives here on earth. We're to be in the world but not of it. We're not to let the water of the world come into our ships, these godly vessels that God has given us. Why? Because it will sink you. Satan will sink you if you let him in. One way or the other, his desire and plan is to sink you.

The word of God says in 1 John 3:7-8:

Dear children, do not let anyone lead you astray. He who does what is right is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who does what is sinful is of the devil, because the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the devil's work.

I've been involved in a solar farm deal. As such, I've been talking to a few people who are in the solar industry; I flew out to San Diego not long ago to talk to a solar company out there.

A week later, their owner flew into Ft. Lauderdale to meet with me. This guy is like a kazillionaire—two jets, five houses, made his first ten million dollars when he was thirty-eight years old and has just kept on making money since then.

When I went to San Diego, he had flown in on one of his jets from another town just to have dinner with us and talk. Now he was flying into Ft. Lauderdale just to see me.

My accountant and I talked with him over lunch and he amazed me by saying, “Listen, I don’t know if we’re ready to do a deal this big with the technology we have in our company. What you should probably do is go with a more established solar panel—and don’t gamble on our new technology.”

I’m sitting here thinking, Wow, this guy flew from all the way from California to sit here and tell me something he could have told me over the phone. He could have just called me up and said, “Hey, listen, I don’t think we’re ready.”

So anyway, I said, “No problem. We’ll talk about it internally and decide on the next step. But I’m just curious, why did you fly from California to tell me this?”

He said, “You came out to see me, and I owe you the respect of coming back to see you in person.”

I was pretty much flabbergasted, thinking to myself, Where else do you find this kind of integrity today? Here’s a guy who doesn’t need to have integrity; he’s got so much money. Now, of course, everybody needs to have integrity, but by the world’s standards, he can afford to blow people off and do what he wants. He doesn’t know me from Adam. We met one time at dinner in California and probably won’t end up even doing a deal together. Yet he flew in from California,

landed at 6:30 in the morning and left at 6:00 at night, just to talk with us and tell us it probably wasn't in our best interest to use his technology.

I spoke with him a little more that day and learned that he was brought up in the Lutheran church and believes in Jesus Christ. We were talking about business, and working hard, and getting ahead, and he said, "I don't believe it's about luck. Here's what I found. The harder I worked, the 'luckier' I got. I worked hard for everything I've got."

I thought to myself that this is how every Christian should behave in life. This is the kind of integrity we should have—not just in business, but in relationships as well. It should be that yes is yes and no is no. We should have respect for people and care for people. It's not about how much money we have or who we are or what our position is.

Jesus talks about that. He says that we're not to align ourselves with rich people for what they can give us. We're not supposed to take the first place at the table. We're to humble ourselves and not be afraid to associate with lowly people. As Christians, we're not supposed to get prideful and puffed up.

My take on this gentleman was, Man, that's how I want people to view me one day.

I hope and pray that I remain faithful in treating people that same way, so that, no matter if I'm broke or rich, healthy or ill, old or young, people are going to say, "There's a man of integrity and character." You can't buy that. And when Jesus says, "What does it profit a man to gain the whole world if he forfeits his soul." (Matthew 16:26) You can certainly apply that to your integrity. Don't sell yours for anything in the world.

"Since 2011 Jack has traveled throughout the state of Florida ministering with me alongside other speakers and leaders. Jack has consistently stood out whether he was teaching an equipping workshop or ministering during a main session."

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EXEC. DIR. FLORIDA MEN OF INTEGRITY

"Jack is a spiritually gifted teacher and counselor with a calling to share the eternal truths of God's Word for the purpose of transforming lives. Jack impacts individuals, couples, families, small groups, and congregations by sharing God's design for life and a message of love and hope in Jesus Christ with a simple, clear, and passionate style."

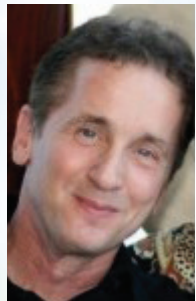
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Jack is a four time author and a sought after national speaker to companies, colleges, churches and conferences such as "Florida Men of Integrity" and "Iron Sharpens Iron" where Jacks speaks frequently. A licensed minister and Director of Men's Ministry since 1993 at his church in Boca Raton, Jack has preached as a guest speaker to thousands at a variety of churches throughout Florida. Jack is Founder/Director of Voice of God Ministry, a non-profit charitable organization.

He graduated from Syracuse University Newhouse School of Public Communications and went on to work for some of the top advertising agencies on Madison Avenue including NWayer and Bozell & Jacobs. Jack owned a successful television production company, then sold it in 2002 to pursue full time ministry and philanthropy. Jack is married to his wife Beth, they have 3 children, Ricky (26), Jackson (12) and Talia (10).

His first book, the immensely popular *Don't Blow It With God*, was published in 2010. The book brought the national spotlight to Jack's writing and preaching. In 2011 Jack released *Where The Rubber Meets The Road With God* for all Christians who wanted to make sure they hear "well done good and faithful servant." In 2014 with *My Addict Your Addict* Jack detailed his son's and his battles and victory over drug addiction. He also created the *Free For Life Overcoming Addiction* online video program, to help people struggling with any kind of addiction, and their families, find the clear path and solutions to overcoming addiction. Jack enjoys the exposure that comes from being a successful author and is using it specifically to reach more people for Jesus and to bring glory to the kingdom of God.

For more info on all Jack's books go to:

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