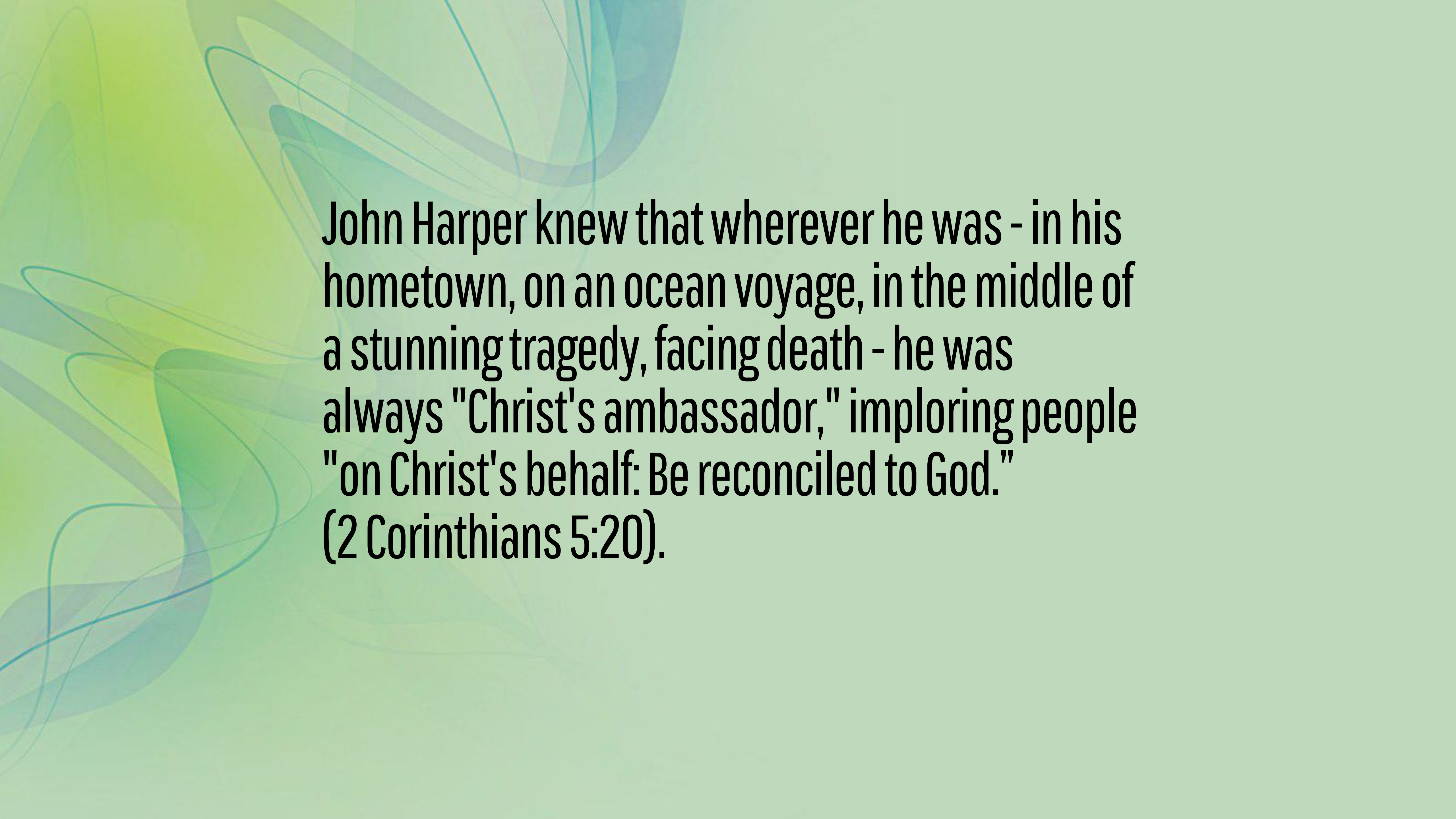




*Blessed Are  
The Merciful*

**THE BEATITUDES (5)**



**John Harper knew that wherever he was - in his hometown, on an ocean voyage, in the middle of a stunning tragedy, facing death - he was always "Christ's ambassador," imploring people "on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God."  
(2 Corinthians 5:20).**

1. Seeing the crowds, He went up on the mountain, and when He sat down, His disciples came to Him.
2. And He opened His mouth and taught them, saying:
3. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
4. Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
5. Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.
6. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

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**Matthew 5:1-6**

7. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.
8. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.
9. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.
10. Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
11. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.
12. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

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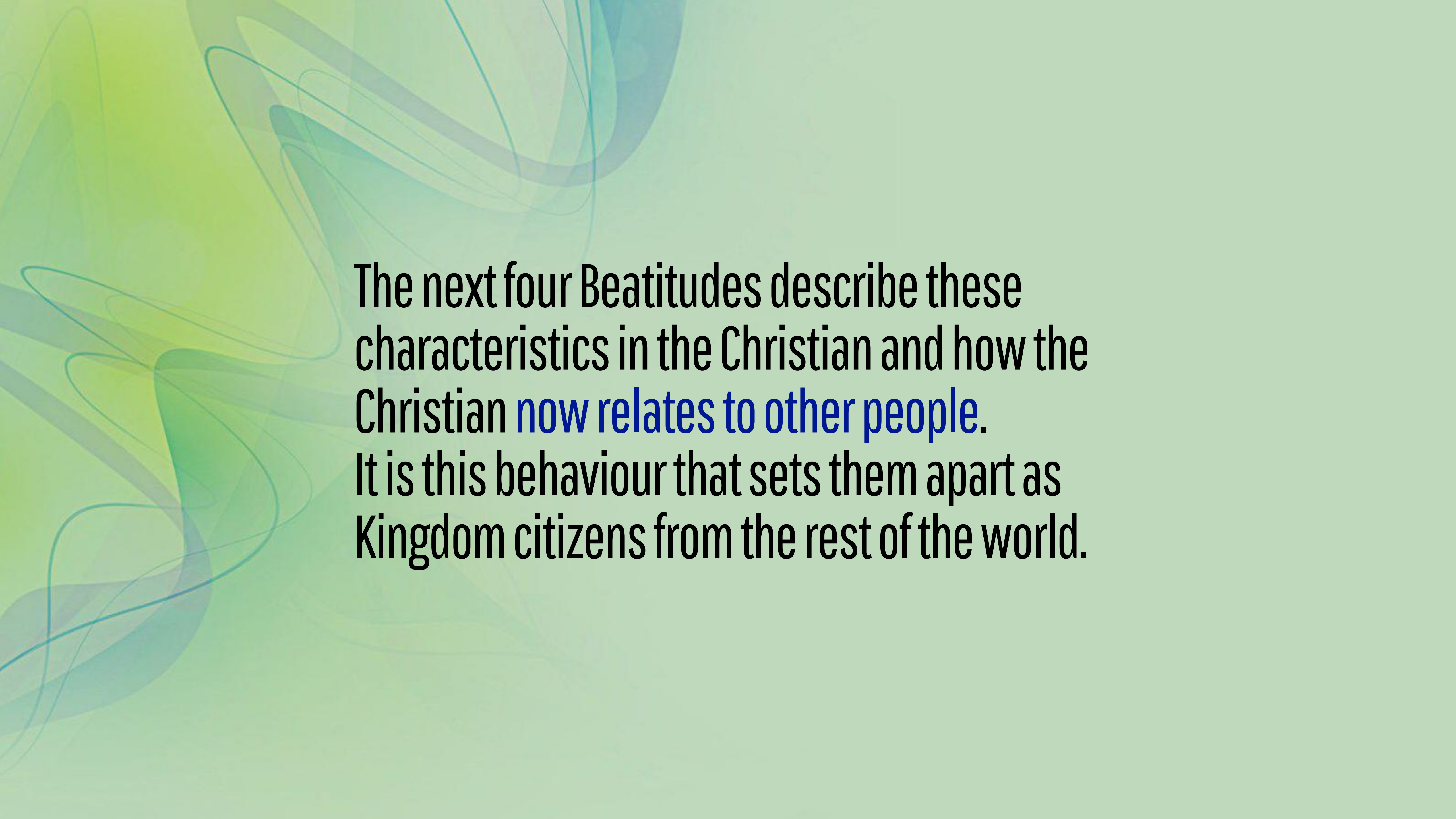
**Matthew 5:7-12**

Blessed are the merciful,  
for they shall receive mercy.

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**Matthew 5:7**

The first four Beatitudes describe not only those who have entered in to the Kingdom and have the Kingdom within, but also **their relationship with God - the inner qualities of the Christian.**

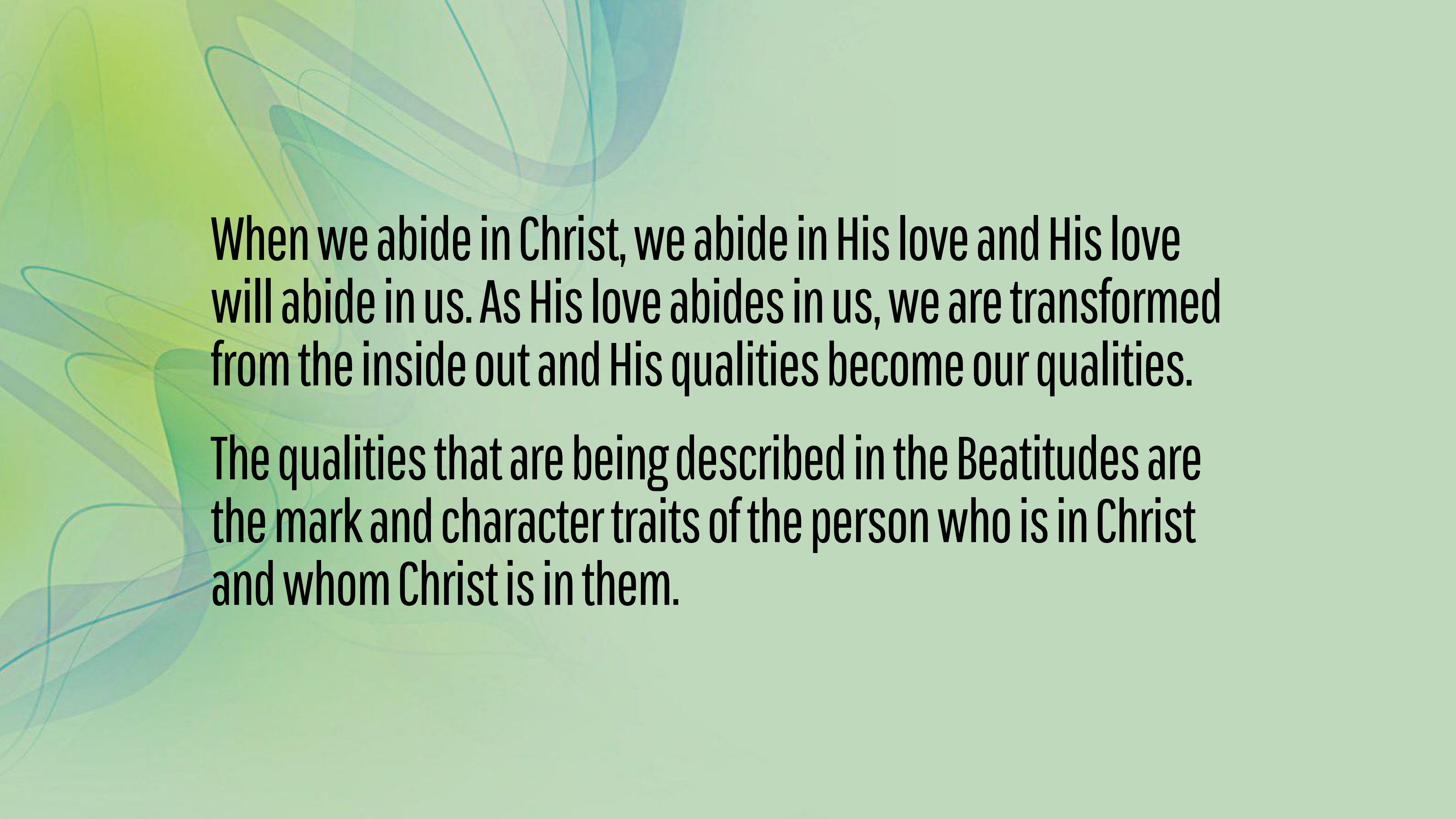


The next four Beatitudes describe these characteristics in the Christian and how the Christian **now relates to other people**. It is this behaviour that sets them apart as Kingdom citizens from the rest of the world.

The word “mercy” as used here comes from the Greek: **Eleēō**.

According to Mounce’s Expository Dictionary it:  
“describes the emotional response and resulting action  
after encountering the suffering and affliction of another.”

It is compassion that comes as a result of seeing a  
person’s need, regardless of whether or not we  
perceive that they deserve compassion.



**When we abide in Christ, we abide in His love and His love will abide in us. As His love abides in us, we are transformed from the inside out and His qualities become our qualities.**

**The qualities that are being described in the Beatitudes are the mark and character traits of the person who is in Christ and whom Christ is in them.**



Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

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**Luke 6:36**

God is merciful and demonstrates His mercy through His great patience.

The Lord is not slow to fulfil His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

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**2 Peter 3:9**

1. And you [He made alive], when you were dead (slain) by [your] trespasses and sins
2. In which at one time you walked [habitually]. You were following the course and fashion of this world [were under the sway of the tendency of this present age], following the prince of the power of the air. [You were obedient to and under the control of] the [demon] spirit that still constantly works in the sons of disobedience [the careless, the rebellious, and the unbelieving, who go against the purposes of God].

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**Ephesians 2:1-2 (Amplified Bible)**

3. Among these we as well as you once lived and conducted ourselves in the passions of our flesh [our behaviour governed by our corrupt and sensual nature], obeying the impulses of the flesh and the thoughts of the mind [our cravings dictated by our senses and our dark imaginings]. We were then by nature children of [God's] wrath and heirs of [His] indignation, like the rest of mankind.

**Ephesians 2:3 (Amplified Bible)**

4. But God—so rich is He in His mercy! Because of and in order to satisfy the great and wonderful and intense love with which He loved us,
5. Even when we were dead (slain) by [our own] shortcomings and trespasses, He made us alive together in fellowship and in union with Christ; [He gave us the very life of Christ Himself, the same new life with which He quickened Him, for] it is by grace (His favour and mercy which you did not deserve) that you are saved (delivered from judgment and made partakers of Christ's salvation).

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**Ephesians 2:4-5 (Amplified Bible)**

God is merciFUL - He is is FULL of mercy

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to His great mercy, He has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

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**1 Peter 1:3**

A Christian **IS** something before he **DOES** anything.

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Dr Martyn Lloyd-Jones

And it is by **BEING** Christian that we will act as Christians. Since God is merciful, and He is moulding us each into His likeness, and since we have Christ dwelling within us; then we will experience an increasing measure of mercy from within us. It is the nature of Christ within us that will be **DEMONSTRATED** by what we do.

For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

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**Ephesians 2:10**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers, **in view of God's mercy**, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God--this is your spiritual act of worship.

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**Romans 12:1**

And all of this is a gift from God, who brought us back to Himself through Christ. And God has given us this task of reconciling people to Him.

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## **2 Corinthians 5:18**

I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

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## **Galatians 2:20**



4. Do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.
5. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus.

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**Philippians 2:4-5**

“You too, who are in Christ are those who have received great mercy. You are now **FILLED** with Christ’s mercy from within, and you will now be merciful to others. I will bless you in many different ways as you extend **MY** mercy to others.”

We are His earthly agents, commissioned by God to go into all the world, proclaiming and demonstrating the Gospel so as to save others from the same fate we once faced.

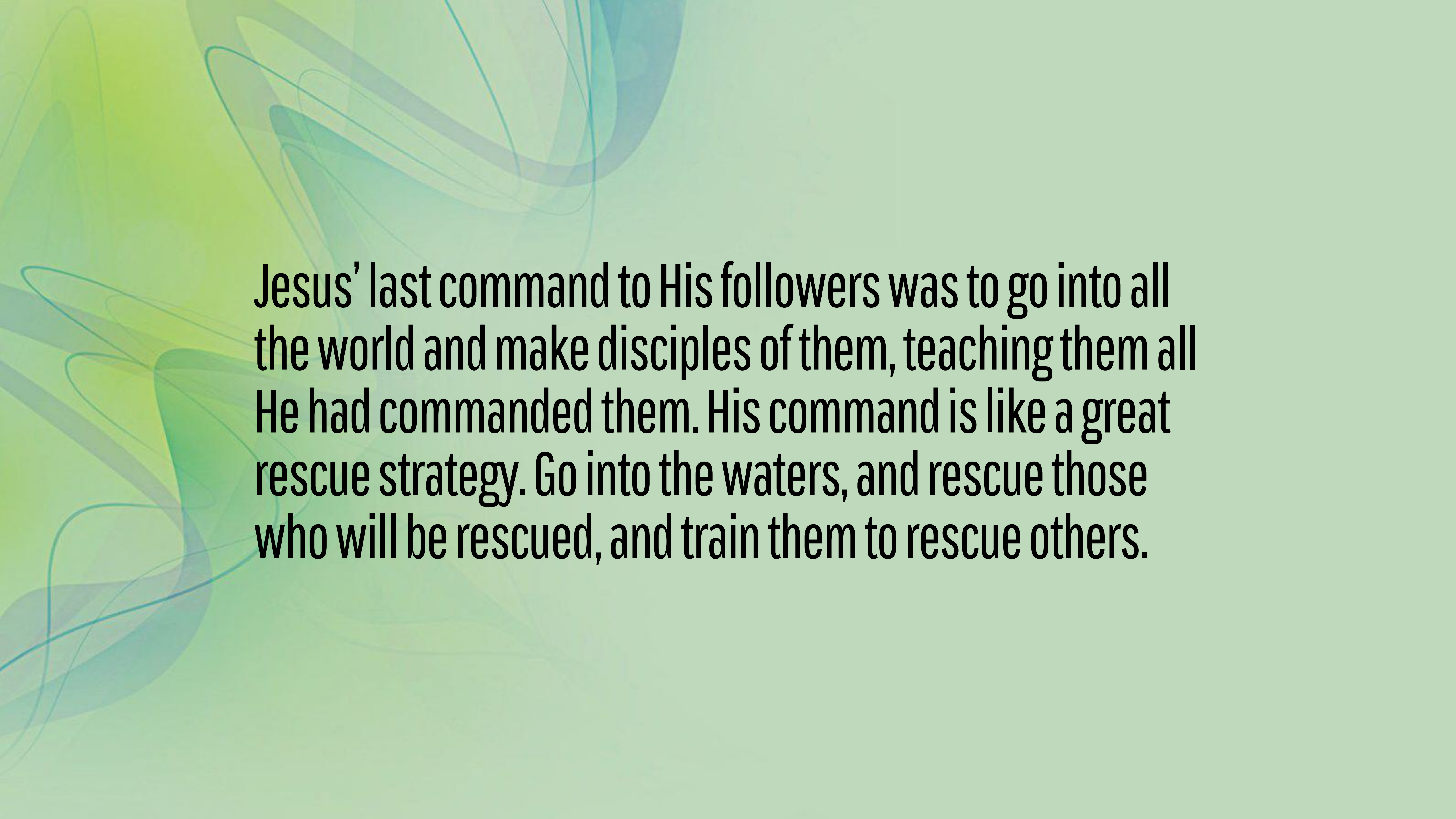
God Who is rich in mercy, saw our pitiable and helpless state, and while each of us were dead in our sin, but also loving and relishing it, He raised us from the dead and makes us alive in Jesus.

We now look **WITH THE SAME MERCY THAT WAS GIVEN TO US**, to the predicament of the others who are yet to be saved, who also are following the course and fashion of this world, and **WE MAKE IT OUR NUMBER ONE PRIORITY** to extend mercy from the merciful nature that comes from Christ within. And we now make it our business that of saving others.

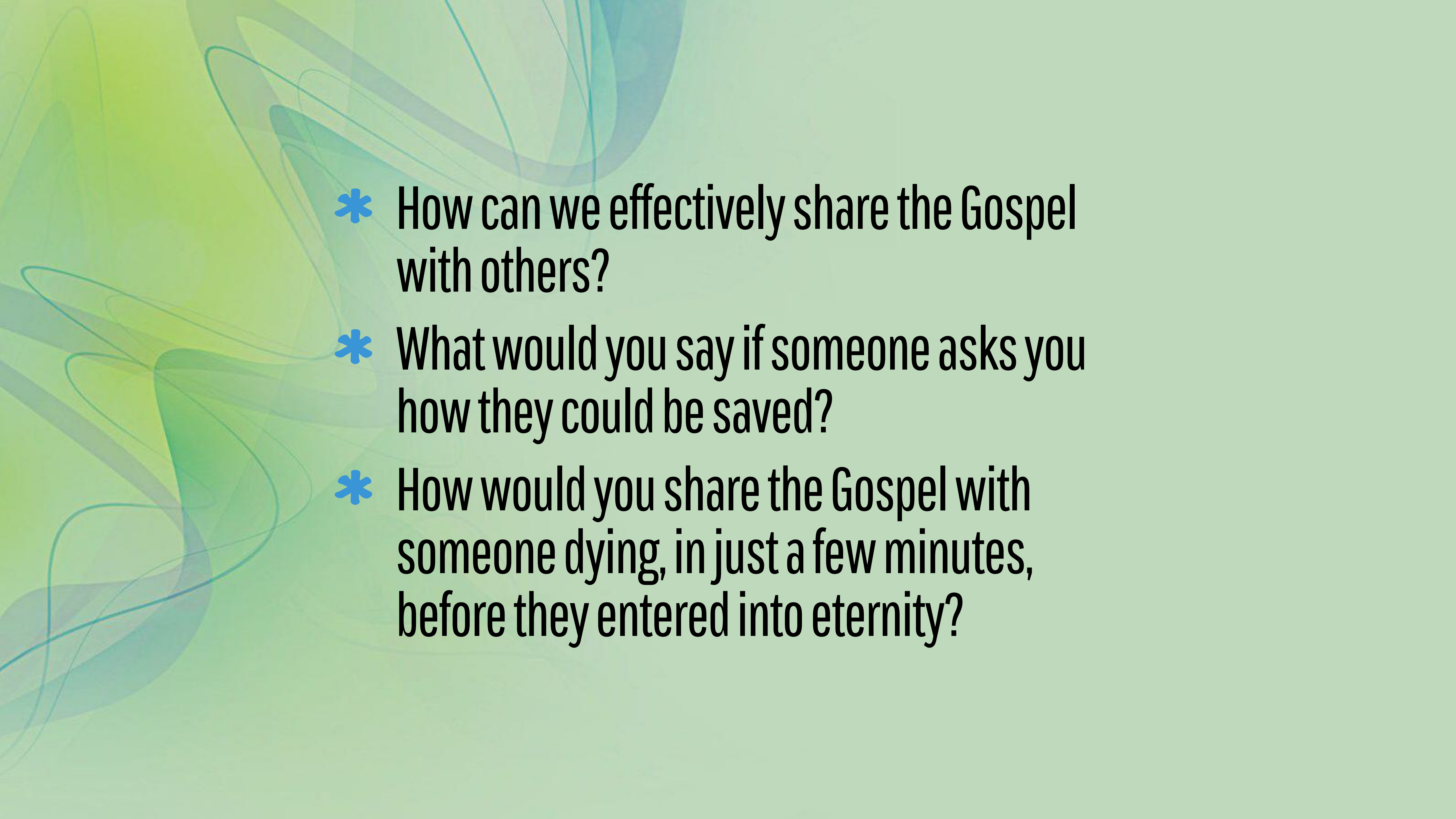
**THOSE KNOWN TO BE SAVED**  
**THOSE KNOWN TO BE LOST**

We who are in Christ have been on both lists.

I pray we are all now on the list that says “known to be saved.”

The background features a light green gradient with abstract, flowing, wavy lines in shades of teal and blue, creating a sense of movement and depth.

**Jesus' last command to His followers was to go into all the world and make disciples of them, teaching them all He had commanded them. His command is like a great rescue strategy. Go into the waters, and rescue those who will be rescued, and train them to rescue others.**

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- \* How can we effectively share the Gospel with others?
  - \* What would you say if someone asks you how they could be saved?
  - \* How would you share the Gospel with someone dying, in just a few minutes, before they entered into eternity?

\* How can we effectively share the Gospel with others?

One of the most effective ways that you can share the Gospel with someone is by beginning with [John 3:16](#) and as you share it, you gently unfold it for them as we have done in our **GOOD NEWS** printout. Get familiar with it and know what each part of the verse is saying, so you can add to it as you share.

What other scriptures come to mind when you read through?



**\* How can we effectively share the Gospel with others?**

**Respond to how the Holy Spirit leads you.**

**Embed the Gospel into your own testimony of how you became born-again.**



The Apostle Paul made it his greatest priority to preach Christ and Him crucified.

For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

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**1 Corinthians 2:2**

We are not just re-telling the wonderful things that God has done in our lives, we are testifying of how Christ, God's own Son came down in mercy to save others and how He did so through His sinless life, His death on the cross and His resurrection.

Christ, the cross and our response through repentance and faith.

For example we might be blessed to say, "then I understood why He died on the cross. He was taking my punishment; He was bruised for my iniquities."

## **I might find myself saying:**

- \* I didn't become a believer because I had met a really persuasive evangelist, but rather I experienced the power of God in the Gospel when I put my faith in Jesus!**
- \* I can emphasise that I know now that the Bible is true because when I believed and trusted in Jesus, I was transformed, I was taken from darkness into light, born again, made a new creature with a new heart and with new desires.**
- \* I am able to say how the Bible has come alive because I now have God's Holy Spirit in me Who leads me into all truth!**

**A good way to construct  
your testimony is to show:**

- \* Who we were before we were born again.**
- \* How we became born again**
- \* Who we are now as a Christian.**

**How can we effectively share the Gospel with others?**

**Here are some really easy questions we can ask to see where God is working spiritually in a person's life.**

- \* Do you have any kind of spiritual belief?**
- \* What do you think happens to a person when they die?**
- \* Hey, you know that I am a Christian, but what about you? What do you believe?"**

## **These questions are:**

- \* Non-threatening.**
- \* They lower the intensity because people are often happy to discuss something about themselves.**
- \* They cause people to think about something they have probably been trying to avoid thinking about.**

## **Important keys:**

- \* We listen - try not to correct unless the Lord specifically directs.**
- \* We acknowledge we are listening - but give them space to share their spiritual understanding.**
- \* We don't judge but show genuine interest in what they share.**

If sharing your testimony is something you're not able to do, then you could say something like: "A few years ago I came across this amazing verse in the Bible, John 3:16. It has really impacted my life, can I share it with you now?"

Then...

- \* We are not engaging in an intellectual discussion on religion.
- \* We are not sharing all that God has done in our life.
- \* We are now proclaiming the Gospel, the power of God for salvation.



Pray that we may declare it fearlessly,  
as we should.

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**Ephesians 6:20**