

JAIL MINISTRY 101 WORKBOOK

FREEDOM IN CHRIST

From Setbacks to Comebacks



Faith • Inspiration • Resilience • Empowerment

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Scripture quotations are from the King James Version (KJV) of the Bible.

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This workbook is designed for ministry, encouragement, and spiritual growth. It is not intended as professional counseling or medical advice.

A Personal Word from Lee. Lee wrote this workbook from real life, real pain, real battles, and real victory through Jesus Christ. I've spent years working in jail ministry, walking alongside men who felt forgotten, broken, and without hope. But I've seen something powerful. No one is beyond saving. Jesus Christ changes lives. Luke 19:10: "For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost." If you will trust Him, He will meet you right where you are, and He will never leave you the same. This workbook is your starting point. Let's begin.



**Lee Whaley: A man God didn't give up on,
and God won't give up on you either!**

Introduction: Why This Workbook Matters

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Introduction: Why This Workbook Matters

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**F.I.R.E. Principles: Faith • Inspiration • Resilience •
Empowerment**

If God did it for me, God will do it for you!

Life has a way of hitting hard. Sometimes it's not one thing, it's many. Setbacks. Pain. Mistakes. Loss. Moments where everything seems to fall apart. I know that place, because I've been there.

I've faced life-threatening situations, devastating setbacks, and moments where I didn't know how I was going to make it through. There were times I could have given up, times I probably should not be here today.

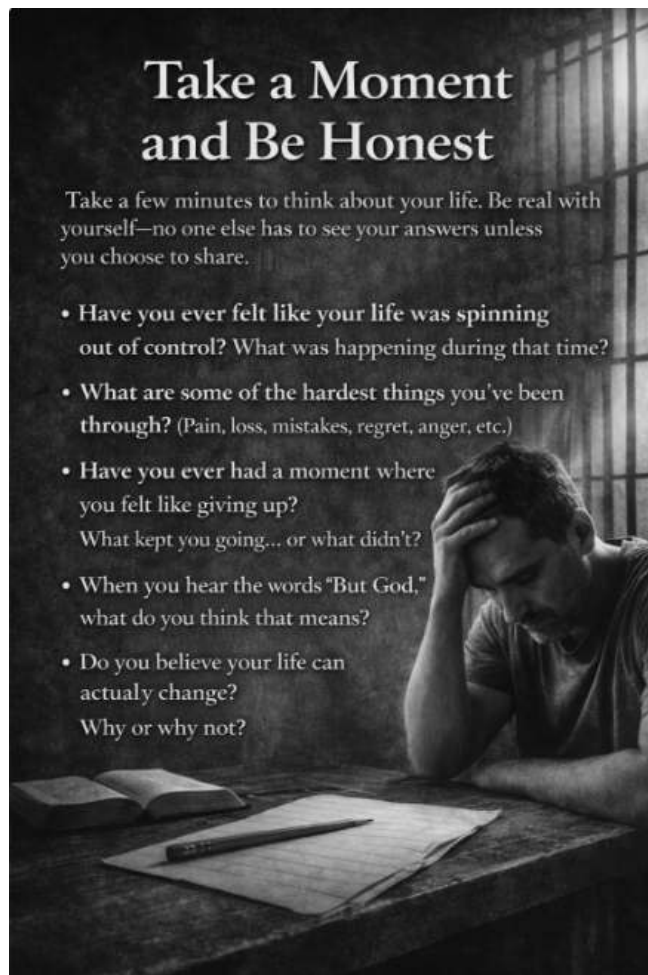


Through every trial, every failure, and every storm, God carried me. He didn't just help me survive; He changed me. He showed me that no matter how far you've fallen or how broken life feels, there is always a way back through Him. That's what this workbook is about. This book isn't just information. This book is a roadmap. A path from confusion to clarity, from bondage to freedom. From defeat to purpose. If you will take this seriously, apply what you learn, and be honest with yourself and with God, your life can change. Not because of me. But because of Him. And I believe this with all my heart: If God did it for me, He will do it for you.

Take a Moment and Be Honest

Take a few minutes to think about your life. Be real with yourself; no one else has to see your answers unless you choose to share.

1. Have you ever felt like your life was spinning out of control? What was happening during that time?
2. What are some of the hardest things you've been through? (Pain, loss, mistakes, regret, anger, etc.)
3. Have you ever had a moment where you felt like giving up? What kept you going, or what didn't?
4. When you hear the words "But God," what do you think that means?
5. Do you believe your life can actually change? Why or why not?



Session 1: The Power of the Gospel

**Before anything in your life can truly change,
you have to understand one thing:**

- 1. What Jesus Christ has already done for you.**
- 2. This is not about religion.**
- 3. This is not about being a better person.**
- 4. This is not about trying harder.**
- 5. This is about truth.**

John 8:32

"You shall know the truth and the truth will set you FREE!"

The Problem We All Have the Bible says:

"For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." Romans 3:23

That means every one of us, no exceptions, has sinned.

We've made mistakes.

We've done wrong.

We've hurt others.

We've gone our own way.

Sin separates us from God.

The Consequence "For the wages of sin is death:" Romans 6:23

**Sin has a price. Not just physical death, but spiritual separation from
God.**

The Good News! (This Changes Everything!)

“But God commended his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” — Romans 5:8

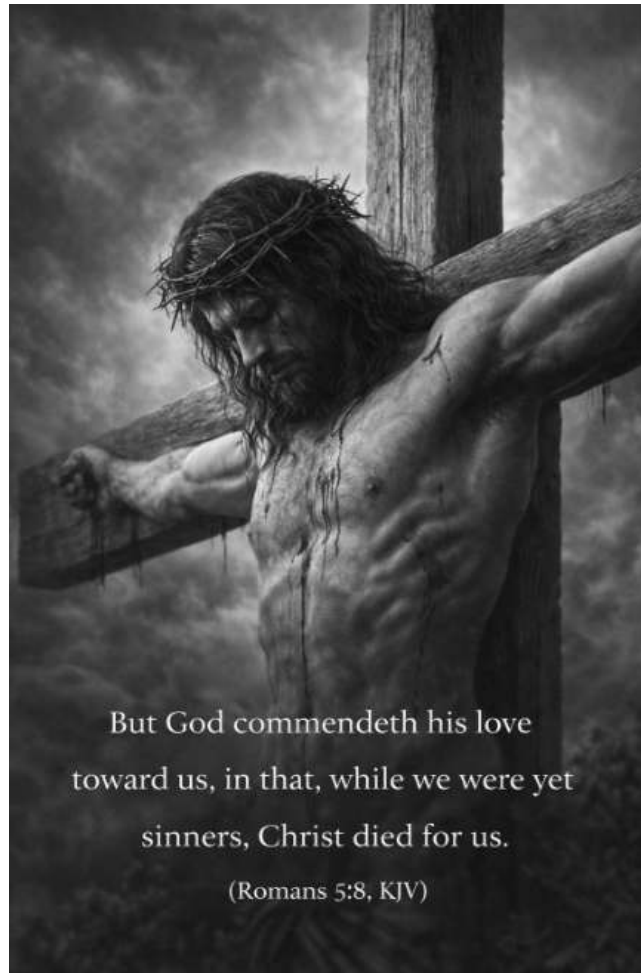
There it is again: But God. Even in our worst condition, God loved us.

Jesus Christ: Lived a perfect life.

Took our place Died on the cross.

Paid for our sin Rose again.

This is how much Jesus Christ loves you! Amen



But God commendeth his love
toward us, in that, while we were yet
sinners, Christ died for us.

(Romans 5:8, KJV)

What this means for you!

The Invitation “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” — Romans 10:13 “Whosoever” means anyone.

That includes you.

No matter:

What you’ve done,

Where you’ve been

How far you’ve fallen.

Simple Truth You can be forgiven.

You can be changed.

You can have a new beginning.

Not because of what you do:

“But because of what Jesus already did.”

Think About It.

Be honest with yourself, no one else has to see your answers!

Before today, what did you believe about God or Jesus?

Do you believe that everyone has sinned, including yourself?

Why or why not?

What do you think it means that Jesus “died for you”?

Do you believe someone can truly be forgiven for anything?

If what you just read is true, how could that change your life?

What Is Faith? (and why it matters)

What Is Faith?

Faith is not just believing that God exists. Faith is believing God, and trusting Him enough to act on what He says.

The Bible Says:

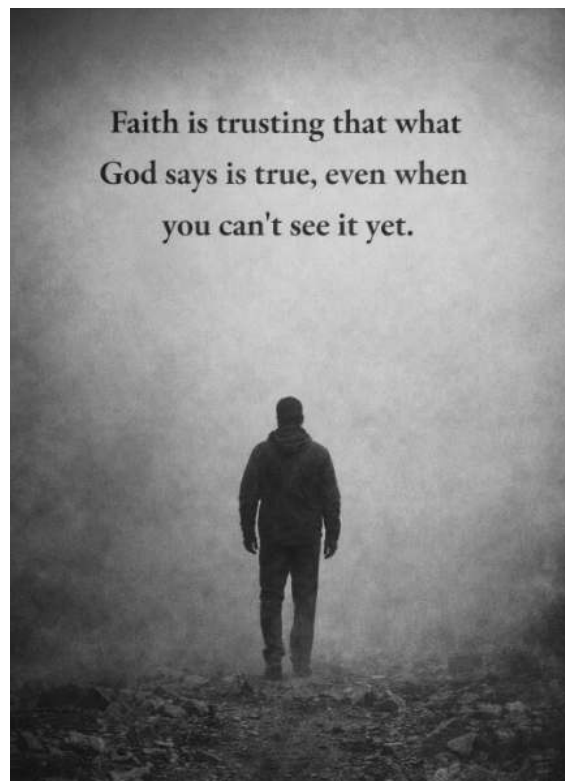
“Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.” — Hebrews 11:1

This is what that means in simple terms:

“Faith is trusting that what God says is true, even when you can’t see it yet.

Jeremiah 33:3

“Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.



What Faith is Not!

Faith is not just saying you believe.

Faith is not a feeling.

Faith is not hoping things will magically work out.

Faith is not based on what you see.

Faith is not trusting yourself.

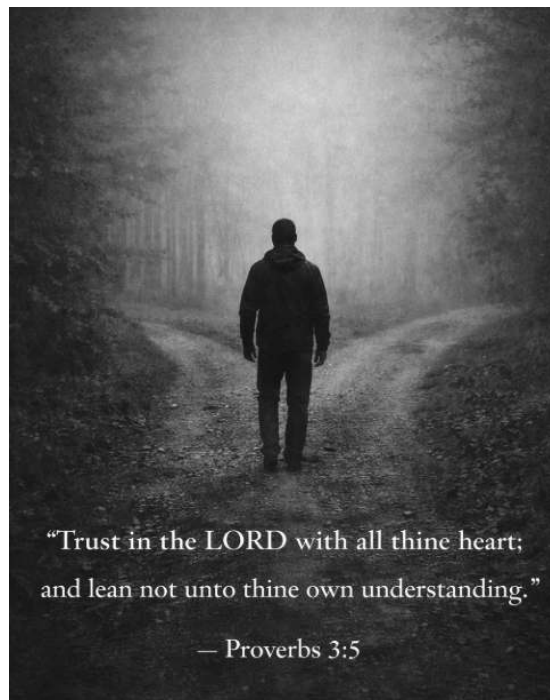
Faith is trusting God, even when things don't make sense.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths” Proverbs 3:5-6

SIMPLE TRUTH

Faith is not about what you feel.

Faith is about who you trust.



How Faith Works

Faith begins when you hear the truth.

Romans 10:17

“Faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.”

Faith grows when you believe what God says.

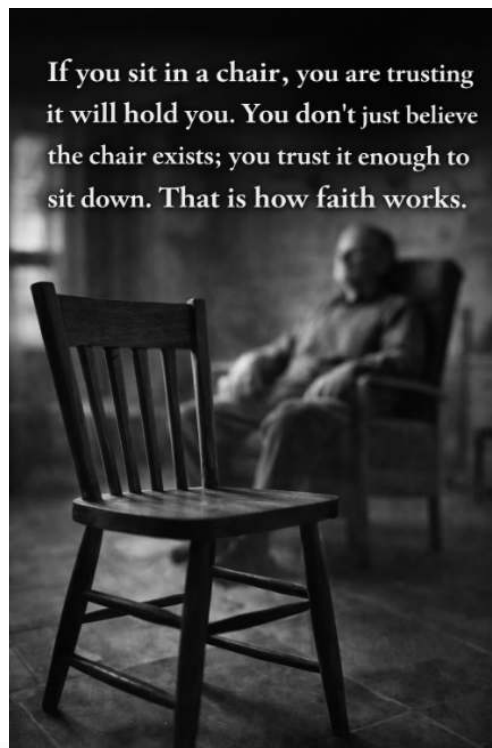
Faith becomes real when you act on it.

EXAMPLE: If you sit in a chair, you are trusting it will hold you. You don't just believe the chair exists; you trust it enough to sit down. That is how faith works.

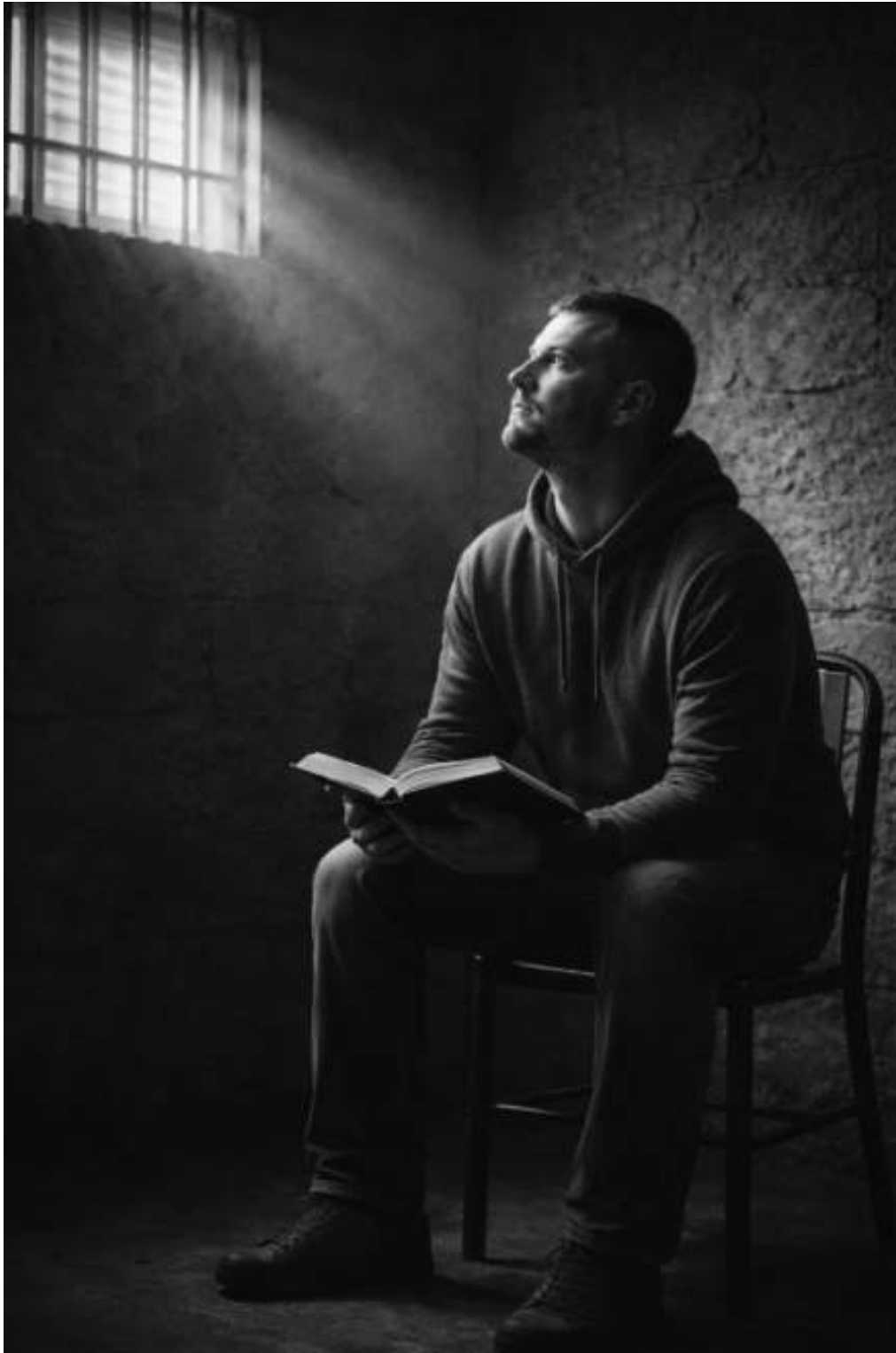
SIMPLE TRUTH

Faith becomes real when you act on it.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.



**What is Saving Faith?
God sees you!
"RIGHT WHERE YOU ARE!"**



Will You Trust Him Today?

Saving faith is more than knowing about God.

It is more than believing facts about Jesus.

Saving faith is trusting Him personally.

Romans 10:8-9:

But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach; 9That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

Ephesians 2:8-9

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

TRUTH SECTION

You can believe Jesus existed and still be lost.

You can believe the Bible is true and still be lost.

You can feel sorry for your sins and still be lost.

Saving faith is not just believing about Jesus. It is trusting in Jesus.

Personal Question? Are you trusting in Jesus, or just believing about Him?

Real Talk: I have believed my whole life, but I have never actually trusted Him.

John 3:3 "Except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God"

What Happens Next?



What Happens Next?

If you have trusted Jesus Christ as your Savior:

Your life has just changed forever.

You are now:

1. Forgiven
2. Born again
3. A child of God

What God Says in 2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

Now It's Time to Grow. Just like a newborn baby, you need to grow.

1. Read the Bible:

Start with the Book of John.

Read a little every day.

God speaks to you through His Word.

Romans 10:17 "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God."

2. Pray:

Talk to God. You don't need fancy words. Just be real.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."

Psalms 55:16-17 "As for me, I will call upon God; and the LORD shall save me. 17 Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice."

You Are Not Alone

3. Tell Someone. Don't keep it to yourself. Share what Jesus has done for you.

4. Find a Bible-Believing Church. You need people who will help you grow. You were not meant to do this alone.

You are not the same person anymore. This is your new beginning.

5. Stay Accountable. Let someone help you stay on track!



You Are Not Alone

No matter where you've been.

No matter what you've done.

No matter how far you think you've gone.

God's grace is greater.

Jesus Christ did not come to condemn you, He came to save you, forgive you, and give you a new life.

“Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out.” — John 6:37

Your New Beginning Starts Now

This is not the end of your story.

This is the beginning of a new life:

A life of freedom

A life of purpose

A life of walking with God

Keep Moving Forward

Stay in God's Word.

Talk to Him daily.

Stay around people who will help you grow.

From Setbacks to Comebacks:

Freedom in Christ Starts Today.