

# Reasons to Follow Pt. 2

Pastor James Foley – Sunday, September 11, 2022

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## INTRODUCTION

Thank you for joining us! Whether you are here in person or joining via the livestream you are most welcome! Please have a Bible at the ready and be prepared to take notes as you like. We have much to cover in a rather short space of time.

## SUMMATIONS

**NOTE 1** – Last week I touched upon a recent discussion initiated by my three-year old daughter (re: baptism)...

**Q1. “Daddy, why did you put people under water?”**

**A.** “Because Daddy is a Pastor and I baptize people.”

**Q2. “Daddy, what is baptism?”**

**A.** “Baptism is something people do when they choose to follow Jesus.”

**Q3. “Why do people follow Jesus?”**

**Q4. “Why do YOU follow Jesus, Daddy?”**

**NOTE 2** – I found that I was not able to quickly answer this question (i.e., at least not in a way that our three-year old could readily understand). But as I noted, this question has stuck with me in recent days, stirring my heart and mind...

**Q. Why have I chosen to follow Christ?**

**NOTE 3** – Last Sunday I offered the following reasons as to why I follow Jesus...

**1)** He calls me to “walk on the water” with Him

**2)** He is still able to save

**3)** He is still willing to save

**NOTE 4** – Feel free to check out this sermon and the notes online at [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org).

**NOTE 5** – This morning I would like to continue this series with several more responses to the Q...

**Q. Why do I follow Jesus?**

**KEY** – It is my hope that my remarks inform and impact your own walk with the Lord! Let us delve in...

## REASON #1

### Q. Why do I follow Christ?

A. His care for me is holistic in nature...

### Q. What do I mean by this statement?

A. Christ has concerned Himself with the whole and/or the entirety of my being. His care is not limited solely to the ethereal, the abstract or the spiritual alone. Rather, He has obligated Himself to meet my every need at every level of my existence...

### 2 Peter 1:3 (NIV, Emphasis Mine)

3 His divine power has given us **everything** we need for a godly life through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness.

**KEY** – Let us elaborate a bit on this point...

### 1) He is Sufficient to Meet My Spiritual Needs

#### John 3:16

16 For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

### 2) He is Sufficient to Meet My Physical Needs

#### Exodus 15:26b

26 . . . I am the Lord, who heals you.

### 3) He is Sufficient to Meet My Emotional Needs

#### Psalms 34:18

18 The Lord is close to the brokenhearted  
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.

#### Psalms 147:3

3 He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

### 4) He is Sufficient to Meet My Familial and/or Social Needs

#### Genesis 2:18 (re: Adam in His Isolation Leading to the Creation of Eve)

18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

#### Psalms 68:6 (ESV)

6 God settles [sets] the solitary [lonely] in a home.

## 5) He is Sufficient to Meet My Material Needs

### Philippians 4:19b (NIV)

19 . . . God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.

### Luke 12:22–32

22 Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat; or about your body, what you will wear. 23 For life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. 24 Consider the ravens: They do not sow or reap, they have no storeroom or barn; yet God feeds them. And how much more valuable you are than birds! 25 Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to your life? 26 Since you cannot do this very little thing, why do you worry about the rest? 27 Consider how the wild flowers grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you, not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. 28 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today, and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, how much more will he clothe you—you of little faith! 29 And do not set your heart on what you will eat or drink; do not worry about it. 30 For the pagan world runs after all such things, and your Father knows that you need them. 31 But seek his kingdom, and these things will be given to you as well. 32 Do not be afraid, little flock, for your Father has been pleased to give you the kingdom.

### Q. What do you need that He has not promised to perfectly supply?

**FYI** – Last week we noted the cleansing of the leper, indicating His willingness to heal. Consider this txt again....

### Matthew 8:1–4

1 When Jesus came down from the mountainside, large crowds followed him. 2 A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, “Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean.”

3 Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. “I am willing,” he said. “Be clean!” Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy. 4 Then Jesus said to him, “See that you don’t tell anyone. But go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift Moses commanded, as a testimony to them.”

**Q1. Have you ever considered what took place next in that overall story of this man’s life?**

**Q2. Have you ever considered how many needs were met in this single moment of healing?**

- 1) Physical
- 2) Emotional/Mental
- 3) Social/Familial
- 4) Material
- 5) Spiritual

## REASON #2

### Q. Why do I follow Christ?

A. The ways of Christ work...

**NOTE 1** – Perhaps this is a rather self-seeking point, but if I am going to give myself to a cause or belief system, I want to be sure that it works (i.e., produces a healthful, abundant outcome). Otherwise it will be more of a hassle than it is worth! I need a foundation that can adequately support the whole of my life, and I have found this in the teaching(s) of Christ...

#### **Matthew 7:24–27**

24 “Therefore everyone who hears these words of mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock. 25 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house; yet it did not fall, because it had its foundation on the rock. 26 But everyone who hears these words of mine and does not put them into practice is like a foolish man who built his house on sand. 27 The rain came down, the streams rose, and the winds blew and beat against that house, and it fell with a great crash.”

**NOTE 2** – I can testify that His ways work and produce something both healthful and abundant. I could speak at length concerning how the application of His Word has produced for me a life abounding in enduring and ever-increasing degrees of love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faithfulness, meekness and self-control (cf. Gal. 5). I can share that...

- 1) His call to forgive others has set me free from the bondage of bitterness, resentment and hostility.
- 2) His call to settle matters quickly with others has worked to save relationships of every type and level.
- 3) His call to rid my life of everything that causes sin has saved me from the workings of sin and addiction.
- 4) His call to “give” has brought both abundance and joy into my life (i.e., more than words can articulate).
- 5) His call to serve has brought me purpose, elevation and a position through which I can influence others.
- 6) His call to seek Him above all else has helped me to rightly order my life and maintain proper priority.
- 7) His call to be wary of false prophets and their ilk has kept me on the straight and narrow of theology.
- 8) His call to abandon worry has saved me from a life of constant anxiety and untold sleepless nights.
- 9) His call to preach the gospel and make disciples has given eternal focus to both life and living.
- 10) His call to belief unto eternal life has released me from the fear of death, giving me hope.

**NOTE 3** – Of course, Satan and the world tells us that the ways of Christ are antiquated, outdated and archaic, but I will tell you that “wisdom is justified by her children” (Luke 7:35). That is, you can see what is truly wise by what is ultimately produced. Look at what the wisdom of this world is producing in our age. Take a good look around you and consider the condition of society and the lives within! As far as I can see...

**NOTE 4** – A life abounding with sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery, idolatry and witchcraft, hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and the like (cf. Gal. 5:19–21)—all born of earthly wisdom and the overflow of its teaching(s)—is far less appealing than the abundant life I have personally known in Christ (cf. John 10:10). Therefore...

#### **Joshua 24:15b**

15 “ . . . as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

## SUMMATIONS

**NOTE 1** – Sometimes the simplest questions yield the most profound of answers...

**Q1. “Why do I follow Jesus?”**

**Q2. “Why do you follow Him?”**

**NOTE 2** – Consider carefully how you respond! We will continue with these thoughts next Sunday!

Ultimately, I must close with the following...

**Q3. “Have you decided to follow Jesus?”**

**NOTE 3** – Consider carefully how you respond! There are temporal and eternal implications in your response!

## CONCLUSION

**NOTE 1** – Feel free to give either in person or online at [www.NewLifeBarre.org](http://www.NewLifeBarre.org).

**NOTE 2** – Please join us for our weekly Sunday School (9:15am) or Mid-Week Study (6:30pm).

**NOTE 3** – Small-Group Ministries resume in September (Date of the Men’s Breakfast this Saturday @ 9am).

### **2 Corinthians 13:14**

14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.