

# 10 | Adventure Real Christianity



**BOOTCAMP**  
Basic training for new and growing Christians

## Introduction

Hollywood spend billions of dollars each year making movies because, we the entertainment consumers love to lose ourselves in the adventures of movie-land. We crave action, suspense, fear, high drama and romance but prefer experiencing it in the safety of plush cinema seating. Something inside us longs to be living a life full of adventure because God has placed that desire in every one of us. The problem is that most of humanity have turned away from God and attempt to fill the void with fast cars, extreme sports, adrenaline rushes, sex, drugs and rock 'n roll. Most of the world (including many Christians), believe the Christian life is a boring, irrelevant life. Churches and people that convey that Christianity is a boring, irrelevant religion have a lot to answer for. I wholeheartedly believe that if we are living the Christian life the way Jesus wants us to live it, we will have a life full of adventure!

## Life to the full

*...I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.* **John 10:10b (NIV)**

Living life to the full doesn't mean having an easy life and living comfortably from birth to death. It means getting as much out of life as you possibly can. If we lived a completely happy life, and never experienced any pain, sorrow or hard times we would not have really lived at all, and we couldn't in turn help others by our own experiences. When you think about it, who wants to live a boring life anyway? No one would enjoy a roller coaster ride if it was straight, level and slow with no twists or turns. It is the same in our lives. We need to have valley experiences in order to appreciate the mountain top experiences.

## Action Hero

Paul's account of just some of his adventures found in 2 Corinthians, proves that life as a Christian can contain phenomenal excitement. Imagine if the following was made into a big-budget blockbuster movie...

*<sup>23</sup>...I have worked harder, been put in jail more often, been whipped times without number, and faced death again and again. <sup>24</sup>Five different times the Jews gave me thirty-nine lashes. <sup>25</sup>Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked. Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. <sup>26</sup>I have traveled many weary miles. I have faced danger from flooded rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the stormy seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be Christians but are not. <sup>27</sup>I have lived with weariness and pain and sleepless nights. Often I have been hungry and thirsty and have gone without food. Often I have shivered with cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm. <sup>28</sup>Then, besides all this, I have the daily burden of how the churches are getting along. <sup>32</sup>When I was in Damascus, the governor under King Aretas kept guards at the city gates to catch me. <sup>33</sup>But I was lowered in a basket through a window in the city wall, and that's how I got away!* **2 Corinthians 11:23b-28, 32-33 (NLT)**

Note these stories were just some of Paul's bad experiences! He doesn't mention any of his good adventures here. Indiana Jones' fictional adventures cannot compete with the Apostle Paul's real life! (Paul didn't have a stunt-double and a multi-million dollar salary either.)

## Just for overseas missionaries?

Only a small percentage of Christians are called to be missionaries overseas (or is it that only a small percentage of Christians obey God's will for their lives and give up all for Him to venture to the utmost parts of the earth?). All Christians should be willing to do whatever God asks them to do, and go wherever God wants them to go. After all, Jesus did call us to take up our cross and follow Him.

God has an amazing plan and purpose for every one of us... but we will only be truly fulfilled in life, being in God's will. That may be working in a normal job, being a housewife, a doctor, a pastor, a restaurant worker... or evangelising the pygmies of the Amazon Basin. Whatever it is, if we know God has called us to

do it, then it will be the greatest adventure for us! The bottom line is, if we claim to follow Christ, we will obey His commands, which involves the great commission...

## The adventure plot

*<sup>15</sup>And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere. <sup>16</sup>Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned. <sup>17</sup>These signs will accompany those who believe: They will cast out demons in my name, and they will speak new languages. <sup>18</sup>They will be able to handle snakes with safety, and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them. They will be able to place their hands on the sick and heal them." Mark 16:15-18 (NLT)*

Let's dissect this portion of scripture...

- **<sup>15</sup>And then he told them, "Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone, everywhere.**

We must not forget why we are here on Earth. Sadly, so many Christians have forgotten and have become complacent, carnal, and are living a pseudo-Christian life with Jesus tacked on as their life insurance policy against hell. The command is "Go!" The person is you!

- **<sup>16</sup>Anyone who believes and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe will be condemned.**

We have a message to bring, and must be unashamed of the gospel. Every individual will be conscious for eternity... the question is where. If we don't tell them, who will?

- **<sup>17</sup>These signs will accompany those who believe:**

Note that the supernatural life is not just restricted to television evangelists. Jesus said that miraculous signs will follow any disciple of Christ who truly believes.

- **<sup>17</sup>...They will cast out demons in my name...**

Many Christians that think casting out demons is extreme and bizarre. They criticise those ministers who are involved in deliverance ministry and they distance themselves from those who are interested in seeking deliverance. Have a read of the gospels and Acts sometime. See how often Jesus, His disciples and the early believers freed people from demonic bondage.

Although being an active part of seeing people set free from spiritual bondages should be a part of every Christian's experience, we must remember to stay teachable, accountable, and balanced...

*<sup>17</sup>The seventy-two returned with joy and said, "Lord, even the demons submit to us in your name."*

*<sup>18</sup>He replied, "I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. <sup>19</sup>I have given you authority to trample on snakes and scorpions and to overcome all the power of the enemy; nothing will harm you.*

*<sup>20</sup>However, do not rejoice that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven." Luke 10:17-20 (NIV)*

- **<sup>17</sup>...they will speak in new languages.**

The experience of being baptized (saturated, submerged) with/in the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in an unlearned language (tongues) is available to every Christian! I fully believe that we simply cannot live the great adventure of zealous Christianity without being continuously filled by God's Holy Spirit.

*"Do not get drunk on wine which leads to debauchery, but be filled with the spirit."*  
**Ephesians 5:18 (NIV)**

The original rendering of this verse conveys the meaning of 'being constantly filled with the Holy Spirit'. It definitely isn't a one-time occurrence only! We should be constantly seeking refreshing, re-filling, and re-fuelling by God's power!

- **<sup>18</sup>They will be able to handle snakes with safety...**

We would be plain stupid to use this verse as a licence to play with deadly snakes! Consider Acts 28 to see how this verse is applied...

<sup>3</sup>As Paul gathered an armful of sticks and was laying them on the fire, a poisonous snake, driven out by the heat, fastened itself onto his hand. <sup>4</sup>The people of the island saw it hanging there and said to each other, "A murderer, no doubt! Though he escaped the sea, justice will not permit him to live." <sup>5</sup>But Paul shook off the snake into the fire and was unharmed. <sup>6</sup>The people waited for him to swell up or suddenly drop dead. But when they had waited a long time and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds and decided he was a god.

**Acts 28:3-6 (NLT)**

- **<sup>18</sup>...and if they drink anything poisonous, it won't hurt them.**

John Gill's Exposition of the Bible explains...

*If they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; not that they were hereby warranted to drink poison, to show what power they had; but should they accidentally drink it, or rather should they be forced to it by their enemies in order to destroy them, they should find no hurt by it...*<sup>1</sup>

*The coffee tasted odd. But not odd enough to alarm me, so I drank it. I was living in Zaire (now Democratic Republic of Congo) at the time, working at a mission hospital in a remote corner of Shaba Province. The coffee had been made using rainwater from the storage tank outside my kitchen door. I always used rainwater for drinking and cooking, since the tap water was pumped from the river and therefore was unfit to drink. I had never had problems with the rainwater. At the start of each rainy season, the tank was thoroughly cleaned and the filter changed. The tank was then resealed, so that nothing could contaminate the water. The rainwater drained from the corrugated iron roof through the filter and into the tank. In the kitchen, I had a large plastic container that we kept filled. I used water from that container to make coffee. My evening coffee had a nasty taste, and I remembered that my dog and cat had been refusing to drink the water for days, preferring to quench their thirst with river water when the garden was hosed. I concluded that we had either used too much cleaning fluid to clean the container or had not rinsed it properly. Next morning, I threw out the rest of the water, rinsed the container, and refilled it. The coffee tasted even worse that afternoon. We were almost at the end of the dry season and there wasn't much water left. Sometimes the rains came early, sometimes late, so I had no idea when the first rain would fall. I couldn't waste any more water, so I decided to drink what I had, despite its awful taste. Besides, I had other things on my mind. Mutengo, an African member of our staff, had told me I'd been bewitched! Apparently a local witch doctor was upset because I was telling people about the true God. This witch doctor was losing customers and influence, and had decided to kill me. I'm not afraid of witchcraft, because I know God can protect me from evil spirits. But, I suspected the witch doctor might plan an "accident" for me. To ignore such a possibility would be folly, so I kept my eyes wide open. A few days later, my plastic container was empty, so I took it outside and turned on the tap. Yuck! The smell sent me reeling. I turned off the tap and reported the matter to the missionary in charge of maintenance. "Impossible!" he exclaimed. "The whole thing is completely sealed. You're imagining things!" To humor me, he came around and turned on the tap—and leapt back even faster than I had done. He climbed up a ladder to investigate—the seal, the filter, everything was absolutely as it should be. He told me he would get somebody to open the tank and see what was wrong. So, I returned to the hospital. A short time later Mutengo rushed into the lab. "You're going to die!" he shouted.*

*"What are you talking about?" I asked.*

*"The witch doctor, he did bewitch you. He used the snake. Come back to your house at once." He rushed off. Thoroughly mystified, I followed. News travels fast in an African village, and when I reached my house I found a large crowd. Whether they were concerned for my welfare or anxious not to miss my demise, I wouldn't like to say. Everybody started talking at once. It took me several minutes to find out the whole story. When the men opened the tank, which had been sealed six months earlier, only a few inches of water remained. In the water lay the decomposing body of a large snake! Its poison sacs had burst releasing deadly venom into the water. No one could explain how the snake got there—apart from witchcraft—since the tank was sealed.*

"One glass of that water should have killed you," the head man told me. "Witch doctors frequently use that sort of snake, because it is so deadly. They just have to put one in a well or small stream and people die."

"Never felt better in my life," I assured him. The crowd buzzed with excitement.

"How can you drink deadly poison and not die?" asked one villager. "Are you more powerful than the witch doctor?"

"Not me, but the God I worship is," I told them. The witch doctor had intended to kill me, but his plan backfired. The people were impressed because God had protected me, which meant the witch doctor lost even more customers!<sup>2</sup>

- **<sup>18</sup>...They will be able to place their hands on the sick and heal them."**

While we are living in this world, we simply won't be able to understand everything about the ways of God and we should never pretend that we do. Although I cannot explain why some people don't get healed, I know of countless others, and have witnessed myself, many supernatural healings in the Name of Jesus. After all, God's Word does not lie.

## Practical steps to having an adventurous life

### 1. Remember the mission!

Many Christians have forgotten the core reason why we exist here on earth. To fulfill our mission from God!

*<sup>18</sup>Jesus came and told his disciples, "I have been given complete authority in heaven and on earth. <sup>19</sup>Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. <sup>20</sup>Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

**Matthew 28:18-20 (NLT)**

Please, never forget the mission. Who ever heard of a secret agent, sent behind enemy lines to fulfill a vitally important mission, getting comfortable with the enemy's way of life, settling down, and forgetting his mission! It would never happen, but in reality it is exactly what many Christians do!

*Vital Christianity implies the element of hazard, of speculation, of splendid gamble. When there's no risk the so-called venture is dead.<sup>2</sup>*

### 2. Have an adventurous attitude

Wake up each day and expect adventure. That way, if things happen out of the ordinary, you will be ready for them. Don't be a boring person; you give Christianity a bad name.

*God works as long as His people live daringly. He ceases when they no longer need His aid.*

**A. W. Tozer**

### 3. Ask God for opportunities to step outside your comfort zone

How many of us actually ask God for opportunities to step outside our comfort zones and live the adventurous life of zealous Christianity? I dare you to pray that prayer!

### 4. Get fully committed to your local church

Sadly, many adventurous Christians have caused a lot of damage because they have been "zealous without knowledge", being un-teachable, lone-rangers, thinking they know best, not willing to make themselves accountable to spiritual oversight and correction. The only way to live the adventurous life is to be fully committed to the local church.

### 5. Read biographies

There are countless biographies of normal everyday men and women who forsook everything and followed God into the great unknown. You could almost think that they were fictional with all the phenomenal adventures these people have had. Forget about the television, or fictional blockbusters... Read true-life stories and get motivated to live it!

## 6. Consider Bible College

I can say from personal experience that if you are serious about living the life of zealous Christianity, and you are able to, get involved in a Spirit-filled, practical Bible College ASAP! The adventurer must be prepared.

## 7. Consider short-term missions

Most churches send teams to other countries for short-term missions work each year or so. If you are serious about the Christian life, invest your money into going on a short-term missions trip. As Keith Green sang...

*Jesus commands us to go  
But we go the other way  
So He carries the burden alone  
While His children are busy at play  
Feeling so called to stay*

## 8. Surrender all

Have the attitude of the prophet Isaiah when he heard the challenge...

<sup>8</sup>Then I heard the Lord asking, "Whom should I send as a messenger to my people? Who will go for us?"  
And I said, "Lord, I'll go! Send me." **Isaiah 6:8 (NLT)**

## Conclusion

I guess the simple answer as to why a vast number of people are not living the adventurous Christian life is that they simply aren't willing to count the cost. The lifetime adventure of real Christianity will cost you your life. Consider what Jesus said...

<sup>25</sup>Great crowds were following Jesus. He turned around and said to them, <sup>26</sup>*"If you want to be my follower you must love me more than your own father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, more than your own life. Otherwise, you cannot be my disciple.* <sup>27</sup>*And you cannot be my disciple if you do not carry your own cross and follow me.*  
**Luke 14:25-27 (NLT)**

Many Christians call Jesus their Master, but aren't willing to forsake all and follow Him.

<sup>4</sup>When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, *"Now go out where it is deeper and let down your nets, and you will catch many fish."*  
<sup>5</sup>**Master,** Simon replied, *"we worked hard all last night and didn't catch a thing. But if you say so, we'll try again."* <sup>6</sup>And this time their nets were so full they began to tear! <sup>7</sup>A shout for help brought their partners in the other boat, and soon both boats were filled with fish and on the verge of sinking.  
<sup>8</sup>When Simon Peter realized what had happened, he fell to his knees before Jesus and said, "Oh, Lord, please leave me—I'm too much of a sinner to be around you." <sup>9</sup>For he was awestruck by the size of their catch, as were the others with him. <sup>10</sup>His partners, James and John, the sons of Zebedee, were also amazed.  
Jesus replied to Simon, *"Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!"* <sup>11</sup>And as soon as they landed, **they left everything and followed Jesus. Luke 5:4-11 (NLT)**

Think about it.

*More than a century ago Dwight L. Moody, founder of the Moody Bible Institute, was sitting in a haymow in Ireland, listening to a preacher named Henry Barley. "The world has yet to see what God can do with and for and through a man who is fully and wholly consecrated to Him," Barley declared. Moody later said that something turned on in his heart that day. Five and a half years later he was sitting way up I the balcony of Charles Spurgeon's church in London, England, and the words of Henry Barley came back to him: "...with a man, for a man, through a man fully and wholly consecrated to God." In the balcony of that great church, Moody bowed his head and*

said, "Lord, if there were ever a man who would commit himself to such a way, here's one." He went out from that place to set the world on fire.<sup>3</sup>

*If I had 300 men who feared nothing but God and hated nothing but sin, and were determined to know nothing among men but Jesus Christ and him crucified, I would set the world on fire.*

**John Wesley**

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<sup>2</sup> When God Thwarted the Witch Doctor, by Jean Munro (<http://www.christianity.com/Christian%20Living/Features/11622287>)

<sup>3</sup> 1001 Great Stories & Illustrations' by R. Kent Hughes, Tyndale House Publishers. Pg 114