



Valley Isle Fellowship
Love God. Love His Church. Love His World
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NEWSLETTER

May 24, 2015 www.vifmaui.com

My mother's favorite passage of scripture was: **Isaiah 40:31 (NLT)** *But those who trust in the LORD will find new strength. They will soar high on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint.* I remember many times when I would see my mom exhausted and yet, she would still do her household chores; now this was after she had put in a full day's work at the office. She was not necessarily smiling and full of energy or even filled with joy. However, she did faithfully go about the task of caring for all of us and the household. She would do her thing and my dad would do his thing. They could have complained but I don't remember either of them complaining. They were not perfect parents, but they were faithful parents.

I believe that it was after my mom died that my dad shared with me that mom's favorite verse was Isaiah 40:31. As I reflected back on her and my dad's lives, I could clearly see that my love and commitment to the Lord was caught from my parents, especially my mom. She was not very vocal about the reality of this verse in her life. She simply and faithfully lived it out.

My parents would faithfully take us to church almost every time the doors of the church were open and did not give us a choice in the matter. Therefore, I remember being at church on Sunday morning, evening, and on Wednesday night for the mid-week service. I know that there must have been times that my brothers and sister rebelled against the expectation of going to church, however, I don't remember a specific instance. I can now see that mom, was really trusting in the Lord to give her and dad the strength to be faithful, and faithful they were. Their consistency lasted unto the day they died.

During my mom's latter years, she suffered from excruciating back and leg pains. She endured the pain and discomfort and we could all see that she was growing weary of this world. My daughter, Erin, told me that mom had shared with her, the year of her death, that in a year's time she would have to be in a wheelchair because of the pain. However, she continued to trust in the Lord.

On the day that she died and went home to Jesus, I believe that the last part of this passage was finally fulfilled. For the day of her "homecoming" was the day that she got to "run and not be weary and walk and not faint." She was able to live out Isaiah 40:31 for the majority of her life and it made a deep impact on my life.

My mom had helped my dad to live through and conquer Leukemia. It nearly took his life and it really took a lot of strength and vitality out of him, but he was able to recover to the point that in the latter years of mom's life, dad was the one taking care of her. Following mom's death, I saw something new taking place in dad's life, he began to get more and more feeble.

Feeling Tired and Weary

Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro



I remember dad coming down with heart problems and he began to have problems with swelling, especially in his legs. The doctor would tell him that he needed to exercise and get his heart working harder. However, every time he did that his legs would hurt so much. I saw that he was beginning to live a more and more sedentary life. As this condition began to take a more dominate place in his life, he began to turn more and more to reading. I noticed that dad's library was composed of a good portion of commentaries on different books of the Bible. He even had 2 or 3 complete sets of Commentaries. I believe dad was reading his Bible and then took to reading the commentaries so that he could more fully understand the Word.

After dad died, one of the things that I missed the most was that dad was one of my closest counselors. Before dad went home to be with the Lord, I would not make a big decision unless I had an opportunity to run it by

continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

1-2	Feeling Tired and Weary
3	Nationalities, Cultures, Traditions and the Blood of Christ
4-6	To Experience God's Love
6-8	Announcements
9	Calendar
10	Sermon


Feeling Tired and Weary

continuation from page 1

him. I remember when Clarice and I moved to the Big Island and I was working as a tour bus driver. I would be at different stops where I had to stay with the bus as our customers were seeing the sights. It was during these times that I would call dad and just talk story with him. His wisdom and his love for Jesus would always lift me up.

As I reflect on dad, it was he that told me that mom's favorite verse was Isaiah 40:31, but I also saw that dad was living out this verse, just as mom had. There were many times that he would be tired and he would go to rest, but it seemed that he would always rest with a book in his hands. More often than not, it would be one of his commentaries. He was finding his rest, hope, and trust in the Lord. He mimicked mom when he died because the last part of this verse also became real. He was also able to rise up on wings like eagles and able to run and not get tired and walk and not get weary.

I pray that I will live like my parents and find my hope and trust in the Lord. I pray that I will also be able to rise on wings like eagles and run and not get tired and walk and not get weary. I pray that all of you might also experience the same. God bless you all.



The poster features a basketball background with the text "basketballMAUI" in a script font. The main title "NEXT LEVEL CAMP" is in large, bold, white letters with a right-pointing arrow integrated into the word "NEXT". Below this, the dates "JUNE 22-26" are displayed in a large, bold, white font. To the right of the dates is a house-shaped graphic containing the text "NIGHT OF SHOOTING STARS" and "JUNE 27TH". At the bottom left, the text "7-12 YEAR OLDS: WESTSIDE & UPCOUNTRY SITES" and "13-18 YEAR OLDS: CENTRAL SITE" is written in a bold, white font. At the bottom left, the text "BASKETBALLMAUI • WWW.BASKETBALLMAUI.COM" is written in a bold, white font.

Summer is soon upon us and that means time to register your son and/or daughter for the basketballMAUI **NEXT LEVEL** basketball camp, June 22-26. We have two age groups this year, with three locations: Lahaina Civic Center and Kamehameha School for the 7-12 year olds and War Memorial Gym in Kahului for the 13-19 year olds. At our Next Level basketball camp we address more than just basketball skills, we address character skills using God's playbook, the Bible.

Camp is very affordable at just \$99.00, but if that is a hardship, there are scholarships available. To register visit our website at: www.basketballmaui.com/camp. You will find more information and be able to print registration forms. There is bus transportation from two locations in Kihei and from the War Memorial Gym to Kamehameha. Sign up now to secure a spot at camp.

If you would like to make a donation to help provide scholarships for those who cannot otherwise afford to attend, you can give online at our website. www.basketballmaui.com/donate

Nationalities, Cultures, Traditions and The Blood of Christ

Pastor Darren Sarmiento

I have four ethnicities and in some respect take pride in each one because that is how God made me. I am part Hawaiian, Japanese, Filipino and Caucasian. I've told people that I have the blood of three immigrants and a national, the nationalist being Hawaiian. I have to be honest. Growing up in Hawaii I did not pay much attention to my background even though I understood it. In school we learned about different cultures and the many traditions that come with them, with May Day showcasing some of the cultures we learned about.

Hawaii is a good picture of the true melting pot of America, where most people can be seen as "people" in the midst of mixed ethnicities, cultures and traditions. I find that it is in this that I find the most pride, because many people in Hawaii have bloodlines that mix various ethnicities, and our culture is a blend of many different cultures.

As somewhat proud that I have the bloodline of these nationalities I want to tell you that as a Christian I take greater pride in being in the bloodline of Jesus Christ (spiritually speaking). In Galatians 3:28 (NLT) it says, *"There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus."* What Paul is saying is that we should stop seeing ourselves as individuals who look, live and do things differently and start seeing ourselves as a people who are together and united as one for the benefit of each other and to the glory of God. I believe that being in Christ does not make us exclusive where we shun everyone but, rather it is just the opposite. We are to be inclusive because Jesus wants all people to come to Him!

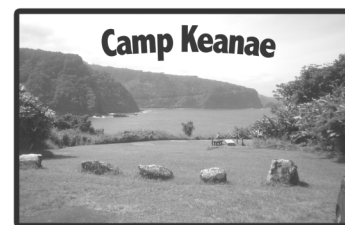
In 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 (TLB) it says, *"¹⁷ When someone becomes a Christian, he becomes a brand new person inside. He is not the same anymore. A new life has begun! ¹⁸ All these new things are from God who brought us back to himself through what Christ Jesus did. And God has given us the privilege of urging everyone to come into his favor and be reconciled to him. ¹⁹ For God was in Christ, restoring the world to himself, no longer counting men's sins against them but blotting them out. This is the wonderful message he has given us to tell others. ²⁰ We are Christ's ambassadors. God is using us to speak to you: we beg you, as though Christ himself were here pleading with you, receive the love he offers you—he reconciled to God. ²¹ For God took the sinless Christ and poured into him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God's goodness into us!"*

I am proud to be a Christian. I do not see this as just for me but for the sake of others too. I find it a privilege that the LORD would use me to reach and help others to be reconciled to Him through Jesus Christ. I am so proud of belonging to Jesus that I want to boast about Him any chance I get. Jeremiah 9:24 (NIV) says, *"²⁴ but let him who boasts boast about this: that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight,"* declares the Lord. Pray to the Lord and thank Him for His sacrifice. Then, thank Him again that He would count you worthy in doing His Kingdom work on earth by sharing the Gospel and making disciples. Making disciples is just encouraging people to build a relationship with Jesus and it all begins with knowing the Gospel and then sharing it. I pray we will all live our lives in such a way that people are drawn to Jesus because of it. Be proud that you are a child of God and be bold to let the world know that the Lord is calling people into His wonderful family.

MCBA CHILDRENS CAMP

"Heroes of the Faith" - Hebrews 12:1-3

June 22nd - June 26th (Monday - Friday)



For Children finishing 3rd thru 6th grade

Come and join us for a **SUPER** fun filled week with:

Games, Missionary Stories, Crafts, Swimming and more

Please see church office for registration forms

Cost: \$150 due Sunday May 31



Sponsored by: Maui County Baptist Association (MCBA)
Kaanapali Beach Ministry, Kahului Baptist, Kaunakakai Baptist, Kihei Baptist,
Lahina Baptist, Lanai Baptist, Maui First Korean Church,
Maui Philippine Baptist, Pukalani Baptist, Valley Isle Fellowship

To Experience God's Love

Pastor Colin Smith

Many Christians live at a great distance from a felt experience of the love of God. So much Christianity in the West is shallow and satisfied. It affirms a creed, but it so often lacks spiritual life. Across the country there are millions of people who have a faith, who've been brought up in the church to believe Jesus died and rose, but they have no living experience of God's love.

We need this prayer from [2 Thessalonians 3:5](#): "May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's patience."

This is a prayer for Christians. Paul is writing to the church. It's a prayer that God will do something in us who believe but do not always feel that God loves us.

I don't want to be there! And neither do you. People who are not Christians endure great pain and carry great sorrows. They do it by gritting their teeth. They do it in Britain with a stiff upper lip. Paul is saying to these believers in this verse, "I want something better for you. I want your soul to be filled with the love of God."

Testimonies of Experiencing God's Love

Let me give you some real-life examples of the love of God flooding a person's soul, so that you will be encouraged to pray for more of this love yourself.

John Wesley

Wesley was a pastor. He had preached on two continents—in England and in Georgia. Something happened to him on Aldersgate Street in London on May 24, 1738, while he was listening to a man read the preface to Luther's work on Romans. Here is Wesley's description of what happened:



About a quarter before nine, while he was describing the change which God works in the heart through faith in Christ, I felt my heart strangely warmed. I felt I did trust in Christ alone for salvation, and an assurance was given to me that he had taken away my sins, even mine, and saved me from the law of sin and death.

Amazingly, Wesley had been

preaching in church for years, but now he tasted the love of God. He had a new sense of its sweetness. His life and ministry were transformed.

Jonathan Edwards

In 1737 Edwards rode out into the woods for a time of prayer and wrote of his extraordinary experience: "I had a view, that was for me extraordinary, of the glory of the Son of God . . . and his wonderful, great, full, pure and sweet grace and love."

He went out into the woods, tied up his horse, and saw the love of Christ in a way that he had not seen it before. He had a "view" of it. He got a glimpse of it. Its sweetness came home to his soul.

Blaise Pascal

One of the most intense descriptions of this kind of experience comes from Blaise Pascal. Pascal is especially interesting because he was a mathematician and a scientist. It would be easy for some of us to dismiss this loving call by saying that there are certain more emotional types of people who have these experiences.

Pascal had an extraordinary experience of the love of God that lasted for about two hours. He scribbled some notes of what happened to him, and then he sewed them into the inside of his coat, where they were found after his death:

This day of grace 1654

From about half past ten at night, to about half after midnight Fire!

God of Abraham, God of Isaac God of Jacob

Not of the philosophers and scholars.

Security, feeling, joy, peace

God of Jesus Christ . . .

Greatness of the human soul . . .

Joy, joy, joy, tears of joy . . .

Jesus Christ, Jesus Christ

May I never be separated from him.

What happened to Pascal? His heart was "directed into the love of God and the patience of Christ."

These testimonies show an amazing work of God in the hearts of men, causing them to experience God's love and Christ's patience in a new way.

continue page 5

To Experience God's Love

continuation from page 4

Power to Know God's Love

Recently, a seminary professor asked 120 of her students this question: "Do you believe that God loves you?" Out of 120 Christian students preparing for ministry, how many do you think said, "yes"?

Two!

The rest gave answers like this: "I know I'm supposed to say, 'Yes' . . . "I know the Bible says he loves me . . . but I don't feel it," or "I'm not sure I can really say I believe it."

How can this be? Jonathan Edwards used a simple analogy to get to the heart of this problem: "There is a difference between having a rational judgment that honey is sweet, and having a sense of its sweetness." You can know honey is sweet, because someone tells you, but you don't really know its sweetness until you've tasted it.

You can know God loves you because your Sunday school teacher told you, but you don't really know God's love until you've tasted his love.

Here are concrete steps to experience more of God's love.

Become dissatisfied with your present spiritual experience.

Cultivate a holy discontent. The person who prays this prayer is looking for something more than he or she already has: "Lord, direct my heart into your love."

We live in a "been there, done that" culture, and the great danger is in developing a "been there, done that" form of Christianity: "I know God loves me, that Jesus died for me and that my sins are forgiven. So, what's next?" Then one day someone says, "Do you really believe that God loves you?" And your shallowness is exposed.

A. W. Tozer says in [*The Pursuit of God*](#),

We have been snared in the coils of a spurious logic which insists that if we have found him, we need no more seek him. . . . In the midst of this great chill there are some who will not be content with shallow logic. They want to taste,

to touch with their hearts the wonder that is God. I want deliberately to encourage this mighty longing after God.

Some of you think God is cold and aloof and harsh and demanding, and these thoughts are deeply rooted in your mind. You need this prayer: "Father, direct my heart into your love!" Ask God, and go on asking, until like the snow that melted in the warmth this week, your heart begins to thaw in the warmth of the love of God.

Gaze into the love of God in Jesus Christ.

[Psalm 27:4](#) says, "One thing I ask of the Lord, this is what I seek: that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek him in his temple."

People who don't like each other will glance at one another. People who like each other will look at one another. People who are desperately in love will gaze at each other.

Isaac Watts used another word to say the same thing in his famous hymn "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." Survey, gaze, ponder and meditate on the love of God. May the Lord direct your hearts into God's love and Christ's patience.

Two Responses

Something in this article may awaken in you—deep calls to deep. Maybe you're thinking, *I want more of what he's talking about.*

Settle it today, in your heart and in your mind, that you will pursue a sweeter taste, a deeper experience, a clearer glimpse of the love of God and the patience of Christ. Go after it. And don't ever stop.

For others, this message does not so much sound like a church bell drawing you in as an alarm clock waking you up.

If you have no response to the love of God, shouldn't you be concerned about the condition of your soul? I hope you'll ask, "What is wrong with me? I have no interest in the love of God. Why am I so satisfied, when others are hungry and thirsty for God?"

continued on page 6



To Experience God's Love

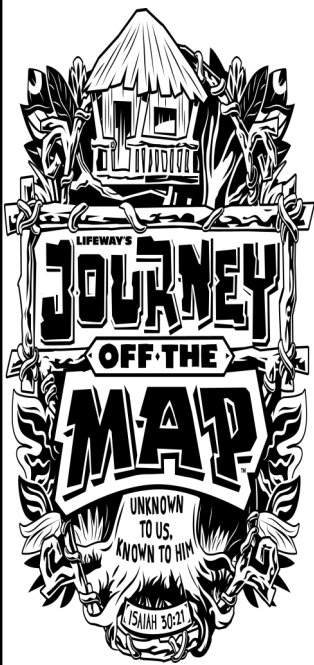
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Perhaps God will use this article to awaken you from the deadness of spirit in which you have been sleeping for far too long.

This article can be found at <http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/to-experience-gods-love>

This article was printed by permission by the author. Requested by Pastor Jeremy Kaneshiro

Colin Smith is senior pastor of [The Orchard Evangelical Free Church](#) in the northwest suburbs of Chicago and a Council Member with The Gospel Coalition. For more resources by Colin Smith visit [Unlocking the Bible](#), where you can [request a free sample of LifeKEYS Daily devotional](#), listen to the [radio program](#), or browse other gospel-centered, Christ-exalting resources. You can also [follow Colin on Twitter](#).



Unfortunately, due to circumstances beyond our control, Vacation Bible School (VBS) is cancelled at VIF this summer. However, Kahului Baptist will be having VBS.

If you are interested in helping them with their VBS, or enrolling children, you can contact the office at 877-0795 and talk with Lynn. If she is not in the office, please leave a message.

Kahului Baptist Church
Vacation Bible School
July 6th-8th
8:00 am-12:00 pm
Call 877-0795 to sign-up

Please pray for Destin Olaso as he prepares to go to Slovakia with NavMissions from June 18th to July 14th.



THE NAVIGATORS

MAY 31st, 2015

10:30am

Wailuku Elementary Cafeteria

Come join us as we celebrate the children's Sunday School promotions.

PROMOTION SUNDAY



"Continue steadfastly in prayer, being watchful in it with thanksgiving"

Colossians 4:2 (ESV)

Here are opportunities to gather together in prayer

Sundays at 10:30 am (Cafeteria)

Monday: 10 am, 3 pm & 6:30 pm (High St Sanctuary)

Gather together to pray for God to move within ourselves, our church, community, nation and world. Please join us for these very powerful times with the Lord and our brothers and sisters.

PASTOR Stephen will be ON vacation FROM August 8th-19th



on vacation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sundays Schedule

7:00 am

Set-up

9:00 am

Worship Service (no
childcare)

10:30 am

Sunday School
(High St Property)

Adult Prayer Time
(Cafeteria)

6:00 pm

Evening Service
(High St Property)

MCBA Youth Camp

Are you in grades 6 to 12?

Join youth from around Maui County for an awesome week at Youth Camp in Keanae from June 8th—12th.

Returning campers fee is \$200. First time campers fee is \$185. We have a limited number of partial scholarships to help offset the registration fee. Deadline is May 25th.



donations needed

Malama Pregnancy is seeking donations for their silent auction at their "Our ParTEA" fundraiser in November. They are looking for:

- Gift Cards
- Gift Baskets
- Dinner for two
- Donations to cover the cost of the fundraiser (checks payable to Malama Pregnancy Center)

The funds from the silent auction will be used to continue providing the following services to our community:

- Free pregnancy tests
- Consultation on pregnancy & choices
- Life Skills classes
- Post-abortion lay counseling

- Practical & emotional support
- Referrals to additional resources & agencies, including adoption

They are a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and function 100% based off of private donations. If you have a business, or know of a business that may be interested in donating, please contact the Center. They will recognize the business' at the event, that provide donations. All donations are tax deductible.

Mahalo for showing the love of Christ to our community through your support!

Mailing: 1710 Ka'ahumanu PMB 423, Wailuku, HI 96793
Physical: 64 Central Ave, Wailuku, HI 96793
(808)280-5810 • malamapregnancycenter@gmail.com
www.mpcmaui.org

ANNOUNCEMENTS

**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED!**



Malama Our Youth and Help with Camp

There are some needs for youth camp this year, happening June 8th-12th in Keanae. Below are their needs.

- **Drivers:** to transport youth to camp on Monday, June 8th, leaving the church around 12pm. Also, to transport youth back to the church on Friday, June 12th, (arrive in Keanae no later than 11:30am).
- **Adult Volunteer:** They can still use one more male counselor (not a team leader) to serve in different capacities, such as with the camp store and with church time.
- **Donation of Supplies:**
 - Paint brushes, painting supplies, and/or acrylic paints that can be used for painting a mural.
 - Four inflatable circular kiddie swimming pools about 6-10 feet in diameter.
- **Sponsorships:** There are some youth who may want to go to camp, but are unable to afford it.

If you have any questions, would like to help and/or donate supplies, please contact Lyle Irimata at (808) 280-4672.

HIGH STREET CLEANING SCHEDULE



Week of May 28-30
Volunteers Needed

Week of June 18-20
Volunteers Needed

Week of June 4-6
Volunteers Needed

Week of June 25-27
Volunteers Needed

Week of June 11-13
Blando 'Ohana

Week of July 2-4
Volunteers Needed

Be IN THE KNOW. JOIN OUR TEXT ALERTS.



text @mrvif to 81010

Valley Isle Fellowship 2015 Calendar

May 2015

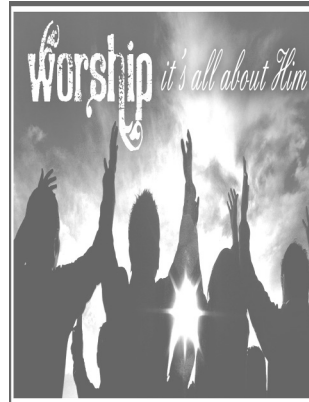
- 24 9 am - Pastor Stephen
10:30 am - Sunday School at High St Property & Adult Prayer in Cafeteria
6 pm - Pastor Stephen
- 25 10 am - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
3 pm - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
- 27 6:30pm - Youth Group "Fuel" @ Sanctuary
- 31 9 am - Pastor Stephen
10:30 am - Sunday School at High St Property & Adult Prayer in Cafeteria
6 pm - Pastor Jeremy

June 2015

- 01 10 am - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
3 pm - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
- 03 6:30pm - Youth Group "Fuel" @ Sanctuary
- 07 9 am - Pastor Jeremy
10:30 am - Sunday School at High St Property & Adult Prayer in Cafeteria

6 pm - Pastor Darren

- 08 Youth Camp - Keanae (Leave)
10 am - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
3 pm - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
6:30 pm - Prayer Meeting @ Sanctuary
- 09 Youth Camp - Keanae
- 10 Youth Camp - Keanae
- 11 Youth Camp - Keanae
- 12 Youth Camp - Keanae (Return)



Today's Worship Songs
Let The Praises Ring

Forever Reign

At The Cross (Where Love Ran Red)

Valley Isle Fellowship

473 S High St, PO Box 886, Wailuku, HI 96793

ph: (808) 244-0865 • vifoffice@hawaii.rr.com • www.vifmaui.com

SUNDAY MORNING SERVICES

Wailuku Elementary School Cafeteria
355 S High St. Wailuku, HI 96793

Service - 9:00 am

Sunday School - 10:30 am

Children & Youth Sunday School at High Street property
Adult Prayer Time in Cafeteria

Associate Pastor

Darren Sarmiento

Cell: (808) 757-1651

Email: darrenvif@hawaii.rr.com

Senior Pastor

Stephen Kaneshiro

Cell: (808) 419-8100

Email: icastephen@gmail.com

121 Ho`owaiwai Lp #801

Wailuku, HI 96793

SUNDAY EVENING SERVICE

VIF Church Sanctuary
6:00 pm



www.facebook.com/valleyislefellowship



@VIFMaui

Associate Pastor

Jeremy Kaneshiro

Cell: (808) 280-2780

Email: vifjeremy@gmail.com

A Fulfilled Relationship With The Lord

Pastor Stephen Kaneshiro

I. Our God is a _____ God. - *Exodus 34:12-14*

A.) אֵלִים (Elim) - to be _____ – _____

B. Zealous about His relationship with _____

Illustration - *Self Image – God is Passionate about a Relationship with You – Josh McDowell.*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vq6RdzEi3uI>

C. HE is _____ to you.

II. This is a _____ relationship. - *Psalms 24:3-6*

A. He does not _____ you.

B. He makes His _____ and _____ known.

C. He leaves the _____ to you.

III. There are _____ for failing to embrace this _____. - *Revelation 20:12-15*

A. These are not a _____ – but _____.

B. Speaking the TRUTH is _____, not _____.

C. A true relationship with Jesus is not about worldly _____ &
_____.

D. A true relationship with Jesus is all about _____.

E. It is about _____ Him. It is about _____ Him. It is about
_____ Him.

Illustration – *The Gallon of Milk (A Christian Story)*

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KpuytosRESI>