

**“The Crux of the Matter”**  
**CRAZY LOVE<sup>1</sup> – Chapter 10**  
**ACTS 2:37**

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME?**

1. The first church in Jerusalem responded **immediately** by repenting, baptizing, selling possessions, and sharing the gospel (Acts 2:37-43).
2. Should I make **changes** in my **life**?
  - ◆ **Sell** my house and rent?
  - ◆ By older cars to avoid **payments**?
  - ◆ **Move** to another city or country?
  - ◆ Stay where I am as a Christian **missionary**?
3. I have concluded there is another **path** than individualism, selfishness, and materialism embraced in the American Dream – even the **Christian** version of it.
4. Oswald Chambers wrote that each Christian is an **original** with God and should avoid being **squeezed** into the mold of someone else’s life.<sup>2</sup>

**KEY THOUGHT:** You were created to be a **unique addition** to the work in our church in building the kingdom of God (1 Cor. 12:4-7).

**I. I WANT MY “CHRISTIAN TALK” TO MATCH MY LIFE (JOHN 14:12-18).**

A. Too often, I set up my life so everything will be fine even if **God** doesn’t come through the way **I want** (John 14:12-14).

1. We have been talking about freeing up our **resources** for building God’s kingdom.
2. We know that we are **quick** to enjoy the blessings God gives us like family vacations, time with friends, and relaxing at home; and we do not want to be **slow** to commit to serve God.

<sup>1</sup> Crazy Love, by Francis Chan; Publisher: David C. Cook, © 2008

<sup>2</sup> Crazy Love, p. 167.

B. Jesus matter-of-factly stated we are to show our love by being **obedient** (John 14:15).

1. Because I have the **Holy Spirit**, I am not **alone** to try and cultivate my love for Jesus (John 16:7-8, 13).

2. Likewise, if I stop pursuing Christ, or let my relationship deteriorate, I will not grow **closer** to Him or be truly **obedient** (James 4:7-8a).

**KEY THOUGHT:** I want to expand my limited view of the Holy Spirit to see Him changing **people** who change **churches** that change **communities** (Eph. 5:18; Gal. 2:20).

## II. I KNOW MY LIFE AS A CHRISTIAN IS A MICROCOSM OF THE **CHURCH'S** LIFE (ACTS 2:46-47).

A. It is my prayer that **each** one of us will be **changed** by studying scripture from this vantage point (Heb. 10:23b-25).

B. Let Jesus find us about His **business** when He **returns** (Luke 2:48-49; Luke 19:10; Col. 1:28-29).

### **I Can Use My Spiritual Gifts To Join God In What He Is Doing At Las Brisas:**

Vacation Bible School (VBS) is coming on June 21st to 25th, from 9:00 AM to Noon each day. What if 100% of our church family participated by using their spiritual gifts, time, talents, and treasure? All glory to God as we serve Him as a church family.

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Snack Worker            | <input type="checkbox"/> Money                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Roll Pennies                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation Worker       | <input type="checkbox"/> Bibles                                | <input type="checkbox"/> Prayer Warrior – 3 to 4 kids and workers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Registration Worker     | <input type="checkbox"/> Disneyland Tickets                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Worker at Family Night              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Classroom Worker        | <input type="checkbox"/> Gift Cards (Chili Cook-off/ Bake-off) | <input type="checkbox"/> Set-up at 7:30 /8:00 AM                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Preschool               | <input type="checkbox"/> Chili Cook-Off Entry                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean-Up at 12:30 PM                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Younger Elem.           | <input type="checkbox"/> Chili Cook-Off Judge                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Night Set-Up                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Older Elem.             | <input type="checkbox"/> Country Fair Bake-Off Entry           | <input type="checkbox"/> Family Night Clean-Up                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter at VBS          | <input type="checkbox"/> Country Fair Bake-Off Judge           | <input type="checkbox"/> Canned-Food Drive Coordinator            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Greeter at Family Night |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Daily Publication       |  |   |

**FOR FURTHER STUDY AND PERSONAL GROWTH**

**June 6, 2010**

**SUNDAY:** *What is my response going to be (Acts 2:37-43)?* After Peter preached on the Day of Pentecost, the people were “cut to the heart” with a sudden intense conviction over their sin of crucifying their Messiah (Acts 3:37). The question was immediately thrust upon on them by the moment, “Brothers, what shall we do?” That day approximately 3,000 people gave their lives to Christ in a radical transformation (Acts 2:41). The veracity of the question is thrust upon each of us here today, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Should I make radical changes in my life? I have concluded that there is another path other than individualism, selfishness, and materialism called the American Dream – even the Christian version of it. Each Christian is a beautiful blend of spiritual gifting that creates an awesome mosaic of worship and service. Every one of us must answer the question for himself, “Brothers, what shall we do?” Fall on your face before the Lord, crying out to Him for the revelation to that question. *May this week be a wonderful spiritual adventure that will lead you into a deeper, more purposeful life with the Lord!*

**MONDAY:** *I am a unique individual created by God (1 Cor. 12:4-7)!* You were created to be a unique addition to the work of God in His church and your community. Spiritual gifts are a divine enablement for ministry (1 Cor. 12:4-7)! These gifts go far beyond special talents or abilities. They are bestowed upon every believer to help edify others and glorify God. You may be the only one in our church that has a “bent” toward a special ministry of encouragement or a focus for prayer for new believers in their first year in Christ. Others will teach and disciple children, youth, or adults. However, the question is in front of you, “Brothers, what shall we do?” My interpretation of scripture is that it is not our choice to serve, but our responsibility to find our niche to serve. Have you found your niche? Try some of those already functioning to help you identify your very own place in the work of the kingdom of God. Seek strength from the Lord to stand up and support the ministries within the church, especially those that help others. Seek wisdom to know how your unique nature should be employed to grow the kingdom. *May this be a grand adventure that never completely ends for you!*

**TUESDAY:** *Learning to truly trust God (John 14:12-14)!* Too often, I set up my life so everything will be fine even if God doesn’t come through the way I want (John 14:12-14). A major topic of conversation in our home has been how to free up additional resources for the building of God’s kingdom. We know how to quickly seize the joy from the blessings God gives us with family vacations, time with friends, and just relaxing at home. We are not quite so swift to commit to use those same resources to serve the Lord. It becomes a matter of obedience and trust to really live the way we talk about the Christian life. I want my “Christian talk” to match my life. “Lord, begin to bring the glaring hypocrisies to light between my talk and my walk.” *May the Lord bless even my smallest step to increase my faith so I will begin to trust Him more every day!*

**WEDNESDAY:** *The Holy Spirit will help me love Jesus more (John 16:7-8, 13)!* Jesus so matter-of-factly stated that we are to show our love for Him by being obedient (John 14:15). This transforming love is cultivated and developed through my relationship with the Holy Spirit. Because I have the Holy Spirit, I am not alone to try and cultivate my love for Jesus (John 16:7-

8, 13). Likewise, if I stop pursuing Jesus, or let my relationship with Him deteriorate; I will cease to be close to Him or obedient to His word (James 4:7-8a). This demands a serious answer to the question, "Brothers, what shall we do?" I have come to realize that I need to improve my relationship with the Holy Spirit. "Lord, help me to be steadfast to surrender to the leadership of the Holy Spirit in my life throughout every day I live." *May the prayer you share with the Lord bring you into the struggle for holiness and service that it should!*

**THURSDAY:** *I want to expand my view of the Holy Spirit (Eph. 5:18; Gal. 2:20)!* It is the Holy Spirit that brings revival to a community and brings change in a church. However, I must remember that the Holy Spirit resides within me as a believer. I, and other Christians, must live Spirit-filled lives that will change the church or be a lightning rod for revival in a community. The Bible tells us that being filled with the Holy Spirit is a continual command that requires obedience everyday (Eph. 5:18). It is possible for me to be a catalyst for anything the Holy Spirit seeks to accomplish if I will only be willing to submit to His leadership. Paul said the submitted Christian is to allow Jesus to live through Him by surrendering to the leadership of the Holy Spirit (Gal. 2:20). "Lord, expand my view of your Spirit! Open my mind to the incredible power that can be focused on kingdom work when I submit to the Holy Spirit's direction." *May my willingness to listen to the Holy Spirit radically change my life and that of my community though my church!*

**FRIDAY:** *Growing is gratifying even with its little pains (Heb. 10:23b-25)!* It is not enough just to *learn* about *Crazy Love*, I have to begin to *live* it. Most of the change in my spiritual life will occur through the partnership I have with other Christians in my church (Eccl. 4:9-10, 12). The partnership seeks to edify, stimulate, and encourage each other through the dark days and correct the problems that will invariably occur (Heb. 10:23b-25). The key is to never give up on one another! Growth will come and will be gratifying as each partner works through the growing pains. I know that my life as a Christian is a microcosm of the church's life (Acts 2:46-47). The question still remains, "Brothers, what shall we do?" Pray for others in your small group and people in our church with whom you wish to partner to help build God's kingdom. *May the spiritual growing pains you I experience bring me closer to God and my partners in ministry!*

**SATURDAY:** *I want to be active in an assignment from Jesus when He comes (Luke 2:48-49; Luke 19:10; Col. 1:28-29)!* There are an unlimited number of things that I can invest my time in each day. When asked the question, "Brothers, what shall we do?" My answer is I want to be found active in the assignment Jesus gave me when He returns to earth or my life ends (Luke 2:48-49; 19:10)! Others that I would partner with in my church may be more likely to disciple new believers than be an evangelist (Col. 1:28-29). There is enough work for all of those working in partnership in our church (1 Cor. 12:4-7). The key is that all the partners are using their original gifting to carry the load with all possible speed across the finish line of each ministry task. Vacation Bible School is a perfect example. Every single person in our church can be a partner in this exciting ministry! It will require that we answer the question, "Brothers, what shall we do?" with a commitment to be a Spirit-filled and Spirit-led partner that uses my gift for His glory! "Lord, lift me beyond my unbelief and carry me to go beyond my excuses to be a part of your revival in our church and community!" *May this truly be a season when your "Christian talk" matches your life!*