

A LESSONS FOR LIFE BOOK

# HALFWAY IN HALFWAY OUT



KEITH HAMMOND

# Introduction

Based on Matthew 6:24 (can't serve two masters), shows how most Christians live on the 50 yard line, Heaven is at one end zone, hell at the other. The more we become like Christ, the closer we get to Heaven, and the more we do things that move us toward hell, the further away we get from God. This book lists numerous activities Christians think are commonplace, but actually move us toward one side, or the other. Also asks readers to choose a side. Serves to remind Christians that we can never live...

## **Halfway In Halfway Out.**



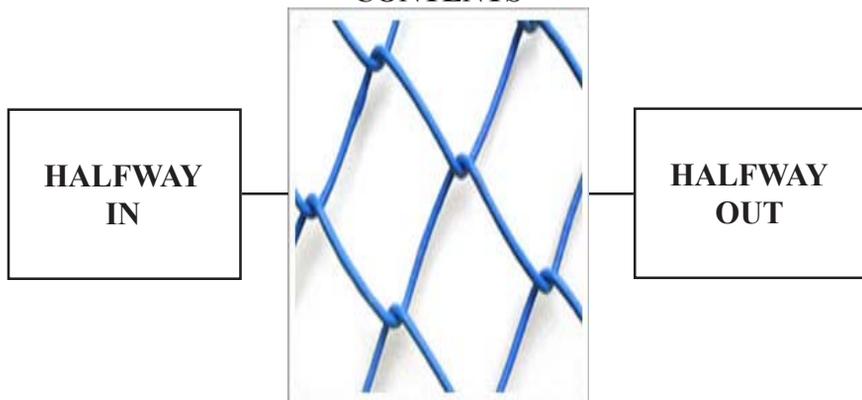
**Chapter One ..... 05**  
*Halfway In Halfway Out*

**Chapter Two ..... 06**  
*Choosing The Right Team*  
*Using the Right Bait*  
*Lifting Up The Right Object*  
*Climbing Higher Heights*

**Chapter Eight ..... XX**  
*Drama Dreams & Victory*

**Chapter Nine ..... XX**  
*Don't Get Weary In Well Doing*  
*Strength & Stamina*  
*Endurance & Encouragement*  
*Never Ever Turn Back*

**TABLE OF  
CONTENTS**



**Chapter Three ..... XX**  
*Growing Toward The Goal*

**Chapter Four ..... XX**  
*Pressing Toward The Mark*

**Chapter Five ..... XX**  
*Running The Race To Win*

**Chapter Six ..... XX**  
*No Cheating No Shortcuts*

**Chapter Seven ..... XX**  
*The Starting Block*  
*Left Too Early Made To Start Over*  
*Keep Your Focus On Jesus*

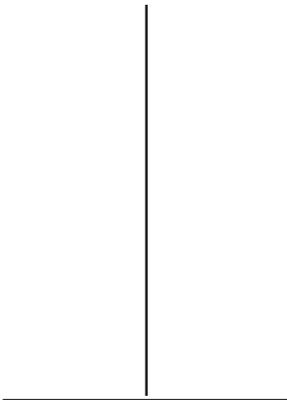
**Chapter Ten ..... XX**  
*What Is That Pulling At You?*

**Chapter Eleven ..... XX**  
*Your Enemies Your Footstool*

**Chapter Twelve ..... XX**  
*Growing By Leaps And Bounds*

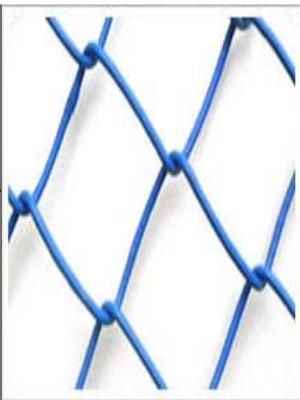
**Chapter Thirteen ..... XX**  
*The Preparation That Pays Off*

**Chapter Fourteen ..... XX**  
*The Finals*  
*The Finish*  
*The Finale*



**CHAPTER ONE**

**HALFWAY  
IN**



**HALFWAY  
OUT**

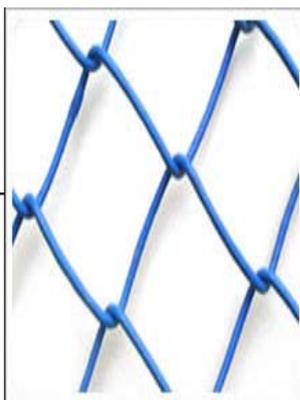


Many Christians believe that once they are born-again that it's Ok to keep doing the same things they were doing before surrendering their life to Christ. It isn't. If you were doing drugs before you came to Christ, you must stop doing drugs in Christ. If you were stealing before you came to Christ, you must stop stealing in Christ. Jesus, through the power of God's Word, causes a transformation in us that changes us from the inside. It keeps us from doing, thinking, saying things we used to.



The Bible says no man can serve two masters. As Christians, during some point in our walk with Christ, we must stop doing the things that keep us from putting on the characteristics of Christ and start doing things that resemble the attitudes and actions of Christ. We must begin to win the war between our flesh and our spirit by putting on the clothing of the fruit of the spirit and wearing it so much that it becomes a second skin. Our flesh wants nothing more than to continue doing the things that it desires. Things that do nothing but lead to destruction, damnation and death. We must make a conscious effort to fight against our flesh so our spirit grows stronger.

**Christians can't straddle the fence**



son your life has changed and that you no longer participate in the things of this world like you used to.



Heaven is on one side of the battle, Hell is on the other. You have the power to choose where

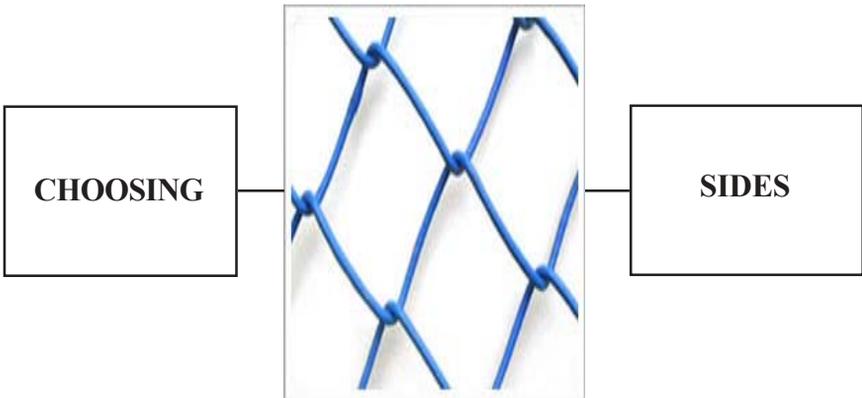
Our flesh wants to continue going to clubs, filling our bodies full of things such as alcohol and other intoxicants that keep us high on something other than the Spirit of God. Once we are walking with Christ, old things in our lives must be put to death in our daily life, and we must adopt a higher standard of living that promotes, projects and proclaims that Jesus is the reason

you want to spend eternity. Your actions must be such that every decision we make on a daily basis has to be weighed heavily. We must think about the consequences of every action and every reaction as though we were being shadowed by Christ himself. We must look at our own shadow as if it were Jesus walking around with us every day. That shadow, although dark, must show the world that there is now a light within you that represents the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, and no darkness, of any sort, can ever, ever dwell within your body again.



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**CHAPTER TWO**



In life, we're all running a race to get to the finish line. But it's not just any kind of race. It's not a 100 yard dash. And although it may feel like it at times, it's not a marathon. What our life resembles most is a relay race. You know what a relay race is: Several runners are in the same race. The first runner starts the race, runs a while, then passes a baton to the next runner. That runner runs awhile, passes the baton, and so on, until the last runner makes it to the finish line, where victory is waiting every time.



In the life of a Christian, Jesus was the starter of the race. He ran a while, and passed the baton to the disciples, who ran a while. Jesus Himself, as the coach of the team, saw another runner who not only was running for another team but was causing injury to the runners on our team. Jesus, in His infinite wisdom, recruited the guy, met him on the road one day, and gave him a no choice ultimatum to come and run for our team. This runner carried the baton even after the original 12 runners Jesus trained, and then passed the baton to other runners to continue after him. Those runners, passed it to us. And its our responsibility to continue, and win the race.

**Christians must look forward, not behind.**



In order for us to even be in the race, we must first be willing to run. There are many Christians on the sidelines in the stands watching the runners run the race, but Jesus needs people willing to actually get in the race. There are several reasons that there are qualified people on the sidelines instead of in the actual race. For example, Jesus told the first 12 runners

he trained that they would most likely be persecuted in terrible ways just by joining his team.



That sent a few of them running the other way. Then, Jesus told them about a team of enemies

who wanted control of their lives just for being one of the runners for Jesus. That sent even more running the other way. Then, he told potential runners they would have to sacrifice everything, and even leave behind people they associated with, in order to be on His Team. Jesus promised to give it all back to them, and more, if they stayed in the race and didn't cave in under the pressure they would surely face. That sent even more people away. Bottom line, many runners are called but few are chosen. You have a choice to make of whose team you're running for.

Fishing is a sport. It starts with an intention to catch something. Then you get the right gear, maybe even spend money on things such as a boat, tackle box, bait, lures, rods and reels, pile it all in the car, buy gas and head out to the water, hoping to find just the right location where the fish are biting. All of this takes time and lots of effort and has absolutely nothing to do and has no bearing on whether or not we get into Heaven to spend eternity with God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and the Angels.



In fact, when Jesus first started His ministry, he found several men doing this exact thing and told them to follow Him, and He would make them fishers of men. Without hesitation, they dropped everything. They left their boat, all their gear, tackle boxes, bait, lures, rods and reels. They walked away from the water and began a journey that took lots of time and effort but had absolutely everything to do with not only them getting into Heaven to spend eternity with Jesus Christ, but also the lives of the men they would soon start fishing for, to let them know that they too, could spend their eternity in Heaven with our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**Christians must use the right bait.**



lives and souls of the men and women and children who satan blinded the minds of once he hit the Earth.



These men were willing to use their fishing skills in a way that would utilize them as representatives of

By dropping everything, they let Jesus know they were willing to fish for something other than food that would only feed them for maybe a day. They were willing to sacrifice their own lives as vessels to be used for a much greater eternal cause. They were ready to go door-to-door, town-by-town, to cities and villages to help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ to help lay claim to the

the one who put all the fish in the oceans, controlled even the waters, and could lead to them a life of peace and prosperity if they choose to accept the free gift of salvation. At this point, fishing seemed useless, and certainly a waste of time for anything except to go and fish for food to eat that day. Why? Because once you see that you can serve under the one who can use a few loaves of bread and scraps of fish to make a meal for thousands, why would you need to do anything else but follow Him? Jesus needs those who want to be fishers of men, and those willing to fish in deep waters.

Weightlifters sometimes train for years just to get the right muscle tone and the right look. They often do so, to compete against others to win prizes or honors. They will work to target one part of their body to get it to be stronger than another. They will eat the right foods, take protein supplements and other nutrition items that ultimately help them get in the best shape they can

possibly be in to meet their objective, whether it's just to look good, or to compete. But they compete, to win.



While weightlifters lift up weights, Christians lift up Jesus. Jesus said when He is lifted up, He'll draw all men unto Him. Weightlifters can only draw people who are spectators of the sport. Jesus draws people not just to be spectators but to be participants. Weightlifters train for years to receive honor from men. Christians train for years by attending Sunday school and Bible study in order to show themselves approved and to give glory to, and receive honor from God. Weightlifters get stronger the more weight they lift. Christians get stronger with the more Word we lift. Weightlifters change on the outside. Christians transform from inside. Weightlifters see results outside. Christians see results inside then out.

### Christians must lift up the right object.



temporary. We have something much better to offer them and the body, and it is eternal, and is everlasting.



In order to lift up Jesus we must offer our body as a living sacrifice to be used in any way that Jesus sees

How do we lift up Jesus to display Him proudly above all other things to a lost and dying world? By laying aside every weight that has taken hold of our lives, and grabbing hold of the strength that comes along with training for Jesus, working out our minds for Jesus, lifting up Jesus. We can help those who are still lost understand that no matter how much bodily exercise they do, it is only

fit to use us. That means, if He needs us to travel locally, nationally and internationally and make certain we help spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ by going door-to-door, town-by-town, to cities and villages everywhere on the planet to give everyone the opportunity to accept the free gift of salvation and the right to spend eternity in Heaven with God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit and the angels, we must be willing to lay aside every weight that has bogged us down from past sins, so we can be free to help lift up the Name of Jesus all over the world because salvation is found in no other name.

Rock climbing is a rigorous sport. Ditto for mountain climbing. It would seem to me they're sort of one in the same but they are vastly different. Either way, it takes plenty of courage to climb a rock or a mountain, and there's certainly no shortage of people doing it. In doing research for this page, I noticed that most of the people interviewed in other articles gave statements to the effect that they climb to "connect with nature;" or "to find themselves." This research even opened my eyes in several ways.



None of the material I read made any mention of climbing to try and connect with Christ, or to find God. The vast majority of the people who climb are doing it to reach higher heights in the field, or in their own sense of self worth. But few, if any of them made any mention of using climbing as a way to climb to higher heights in their faith. God is ever-present. He is present on the bottom. And He's there when you reach the top. Whatever rock, or mountain, or hill we climb, or whatever height we try to achieve, we are told to honor God first. Without that, reaching the height is only worth worldly acclaim, which in itself, is worth absolutely nothing at all.

**Christians must climb higher heights.**



training is for an eternal purpose, not an Earthly one. Our training has the greatest of all results...eternal life.



Moses had to climb the mountain. He had to see why the cloud hovering above the mountain

As Christians, we are trained just as rigorously if not more than those who are climbers. From the moment we surrender and give our lives to Christ, we are trained in having church, trained in worship, trained how to praise God; trained how to pray; we are trained in Sunday school and Bible study; and we are trained how to reach the lost. All this

would turn red at times, when other times it didn't. He had a desire to see if he could find out what or who was on top of the mountain. His climbing had nothing to do with just reaching the higher height, or just being able to see the view. His climbing had an eternal purpose. One that even he didn't know at the time, but was made evident to him once he reached the top. A city set on a hill cannot be hidden. Everyone in the valley can see the city on the top of the hill. And many are called to train to reach the higher height by climbing up there, but only a few will actually make it. Are you one of the ones that will?



Brother Keith Hammond

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Brother Keith is a born again Christian. He is a Spirit-led man of God, teacher and author. His life has been transformed from things such as pride and prison to passion and purpose.

God is the author of the Bible. It is meant to be our instruction manual, our roadmap home. Without it, we are lost. Use the information in these books to help you and others.

God destroys the darkness behind us, to direct us toward our destiny ahead. So whatever you do on your journey, never turn back. God bless you in your walk with Christ. Amen.

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