



FEARLESS

HOW JESUS CHANGES EVERYTHING



GEORGE O. WOOD



FEARLESS—How Jesus Changes Everything

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NEVER-ENDING GOOD NEWS

*The beginning of the gospel about
Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

MARK 1:1

HAVE YOU EVER NOTICED that Mark's gospel begins with an incomplete sentence? My suspicion is that Mark gave this verse as a title only when he had completed the last sentence of the last chapter.

Mark wrote about thirty years after the ascension of Jesus. The gospel, in its entirety, looks back on the three years of Jesus' public ministry. It's as though Mark got to the end of what we know as chapter 16, doubled back, and said to himself, "Well, the earthly ministry of Jesus was just beginning. Decades later, it is still ongoing. His story has no ending—He is still saving, teaching, healing, delivering—so I must make that clear. I'm going to add a sentence at the beginning that simply says, 'All you are about to read is just the commencement. When you get to the end of my gospel, please know that everything He did in the flesh was only the beginning.'"

It is the never-ending good news.

The word *gospel* in the original Greek means simply "good news."

When Jesus comes into your life, the good news begins. No matter how bad the news has been for you up to that moment, with His entrance the good news of salvation, forgiveness, abundant life, and eternal life begins!

The good news remains true even for the dark nights of the soul that you may endure as a follower of Jesus. Without Him there is no light at the end of the tunnel. He may be the only good news you have in a time of difficulty.

Jesus is the source of all good news. All other forms of good news are transitory because they are of this earth. Health, wealth,

position—all will pass away. Jesus remains, and because He abides, we will inherit forever the benefits He provides.

He comes to you, in human form, as Jesus: Yeshua, Savior, Joshua. The very meaning of His name informs our human condition. We are lost and in need of a Savior. Without Jesus, we do not know God because we are ignorant of Him, unlike Him, and distanced from Him.

He comes to you as Christ: Messiah, the Anointed One. In the Old Testament, three offices carried the investiture of anointment: priest, prophet, and king. Jesus is all of these to you. He is priest because He bears your sins, carries your burdens, and intercedes for you. He is prophet because He speaks words of life to you, and He is king because He rules over you.

He comes to you as Son of God. Whereas the titles Savior and Christ describe His relationship to you, the title Son of God describes His relationship to the Father. Jesus is man, but far more. You may not understand the essence of His nature as Son of God because there is hiddenness in Him that no one but Himself knows. His being defies your ability to describe Him. We are no more able to fathom the mystery of the Trinity than a mouse is able to comprehend calculus. Jesus has revealed Himself sufficiently, however, that we may know and love Him, fall down and worship Him, and get up and serve Him.

The life of Jesus is never finished because He reigns without end. His work in you is never finished. The gospel must never be an old story for you. The One who brings you the good news has power to save you, rearrange you, deliver you from bondage and the power of the Devil, and continually reveal Himself to you so that each day in your life will witness your own new chapter of Christ's ongoing good news in you.

A Prayer

Lord Jesus, I give You thanks that Your good news has begun and continues in me. In every peak and valley of my life, You are always there with good news.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

DR. GEORGE O. WOOD is the chief executive officer of the Assemblies of God. As general superintendent of the Assemblies of God, USA, part of the largest Pentecostal denomination in the world, he is a member of the denomination's Executive Leadership Team and Executive Presbytery. The church has over 12,800 congregations in the United States with over three million members and adherents.

The U.S. Assemblies of God is part of a larger World Assemblies of God fellowship with a membership of over 67 million. Dr. Wood also serves as chairman of the World Assemblies of God fellowship as well as the global co-chair for Empowered21.

Prior to his present position, Wood served the church as its general secretary for fourteen years. He was assistant superintendent of the Southern California District from 1988–93. Wood pastored Newport-Mesa Christian Center in Costa Mesa, California, for seventeen years.

The son of missionary parents to China and Tibet, Wood holds a doctoral degree in pastoral theology from Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California, and a juris doctorate from Western State University College of Law in Fullerton, California. He did his undergraduate work at Evangel University (College) in Springfield, Missouri, and served the college in several capacities, including being director of spiritual life and student life from 1965–71. He was ordained by the Southern Missouri District in 1967.

Dr. Wood is author of a number of books including *Road Trip Leadership*, *Living in the Spirit*, *A Psalm in Your Heart*, *Living Fully*, *The Successful Life*, and a college text on the book of Acts. Sermons by Dr. Wood may be heard at www.georgeowood.com.

Wood and his wife, Jewel, currently reside in Springfield, Missouri. They have a daughter and a son.

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