

## To Receive Real Life

### See Your Condition

"There is none righteous"  
(Romans 3:10).

"All we like sheep have gone astray"  
(Isaiah 53:6).

"The soul that sinneth, it shall die"  
(Ezekiel 18:4).

### Take God's Offer

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31).

Jesus said, "If any man thirst, let him  
come unto me, and drink" (John 7:37).

### Seek God's Provision

"Blessed are they which do hunger  
and thirst after righteousness: for they  
shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6).

"Jesus said unto them, I am the  
bread of life: he that cometh to me  
shall never hunger; and he that  
believeth on me shall never thirst"  
(John 6:35).

### Know God's Transforming Power

"A new heart also will I give you, and  
a new spirit will I put within you: and  
I will take away the stony heart out of  
your flesh, and I will give you an heart  
of flesh" (Ezekiel 36:26).

### Live a New Life

"As Christ was raised up from the  
dead by the glory of the Father, even  
so we also should walk in newness of  
life" (Romans 6:4).

"We are his workmanship, created  
in Christ Jesus unto good works, which  
God hath before ordained that we  
should walk in them" (Ephesians 2:10).

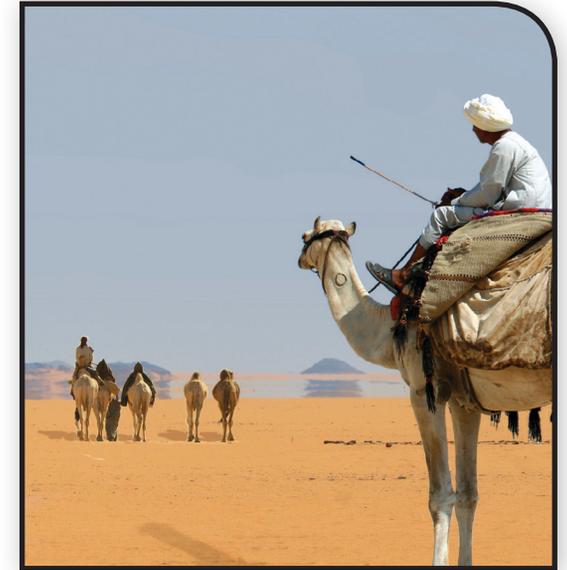
*For additional information or requests contact:*

*"What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world,  
and lose his own soul?" (Mark 8:36).*

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# JUST FOR YOU



## Chasing a Mirage

Many centuries ago, Egypt fought  
against Nubia, an ancient territory along  
the upper Nile River.

During the war, an Egyptian regiment  
attempted to cross the Nubian Desert.  
The troops were on a strictly limited  
water allowance and were extremely  
thirsty.

They sighted a sparkling expanse  
of water in the distance. A lake! The  
troops ordered their Arab guide to  
lead them to the banks of this distant  
lake. The guide refused, assuring them  
that the lake was not real. It was only a  
mirage.

The troops, nearly mad with thirst, refused to believe him. They turned on the guide and killed him. Then the whole regiment rushed toward the water.

On they hurried, thirsty and faint, over the burning sands. Heavier and heavier their footsteps became as they pushed on, away from their dead guide and the right way.

Finally, the illusion disappeared. The shimmering water faded into scorching sands, fierce thirst, and despair. They were lost, hopelessly lost!

An Egyptian search party eventually found their parched bodies, withered under the scorching sun.\*

How foolish and sad! These deluded men allowed their desire and passion to lead them out of the way, chasing a glimmering fantasy of water and finding a miserable death.

They allowed a delusional short-range goal to lead them away from long-range success. They lost terribly.

But how true to human nature they acted! How very like people today.

People rush this way and that, seeking an elusive goal. The promise of pleasure catches their eye—and away they go, seeking the latest fun or the newest craze or gadget.

A husband sees another woman a bit prettier than his wife, and away he goes, pursuing a mirage, breaking hearts and rending a home. A wife and mother spies something “better” shimmering in the distance and pursues it, to her own and her family’s ruin.

A young person pursues the lure of the “good life” and is caught in addictive and harmful habits. Another,

wanting to be in the “right” group, tries drugs and enters a downward spiral of despair—while all the time convincing himself that it’s all in fun.

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### *How often do we chase our own kind of mirage?*

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How often do we chase our own kind of mirage, thinking that true satisfaction is almost within our grasp? The next possession. The next experience. The next relationship. The next gadget. The next rung on the corporate ladder. The next dollar.

Sometimes we catch the thing that we chase, yet the satisfaction we crave proves elusive. Pleasure decreases while despair increases. Tragically, some give in to depression, and finally believe the lie being whispered in their heart: *Just end it all! That’s the only way to peace now.*

Suicide is the third-leading cause of death for teens and young adults. And little wonder, for racing off into the desert after mirages is the story of many lives.

Will people ever learn that chasing after things never leads to real life? Many never will.

More importantly, will you learn it?

How many more mirages will you pursue? Why not just go back to the Guide and find the right way? For the one true Guide is very much alive, ready and waiting for you to come to Him.

God offers you the water of life. “Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money;

come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me. . . . Incline your ear, and come unto me: hear, and your soul shall live” (Isaiah 55:1-3).

Hear these words of Jesus: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28). “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (John 14:6). “Him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out” (John 6:37).

God is the source of the deepest and purest satisfaction known to man. Many have found it as they give themselves over to Him and follow His design for living. “Thou wilt shew me the path of life: in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore” (Psalm 16:11).

Accept His invitation! Reach out to Jesus and take these promises. Your part is to give up the mirages, give up trying to find life for yourself, and take Him at His word. Present your life to Him as a living sacrifice, because He gave His life as the sacrifice for your sins.

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### *God offers you the water of life!*

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Are you ready to stop chasing mirages? Then repent, turn from the mirages; turn to Jesus.

*\*This story is from In the Heart of Africa, by Samuel W. Baker.*