LAYMAN'S FELLOWSHIP

...AND SO IT BEGINS

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1 **JUNE 20, 2004**

GREETINGS IN CHRIST—ALAN & ANI LAYMAN

Greetings. I am Alan Layman. In other words, I am just A. Layman. Yes, a layman. Just *a layman.* What's my real name? It doesn't really matter. I don't claim anything special. I don't want any credit for my writings. Maybe my writing won't be that good and so therefore I should never own up to it! ;)

What do I claim? I only claim to believe on Jesus Christ. He is my life. What is my background? What is my particular flavor of religion? I can only say I have the person of Jesus Christ as the object of my worship. Nothing else compares to Him! If you have to know, then I will answer this way: If the various forms of believing in God through Jesus Christ were flavors of ice cream, then I would be plain vanilla with nothing added. Paul once wrote "for I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified" - 1 Cor 2:2. As ***A. Layman***, I say, "Amen brother. Well said."

As for Ani. She's also says hi, but her identity is more anonymous than mine. Why? Because she is you. She is also me. I am also Ani Layman. Yes, that's right, *Any Layman*.

She (Ani Layman) is the body of Christ. I believe she has a lot to say and being just *a layman* I can only hope to give her a voice and encourage her to speak her heart…

What was that? Did you have something to say Ani??? We're listening…Speak up, I can't quite hear you!

If you have something to share see the back page of this issue for details on submitting your writings to Layman's Fellowship

THE LORD'S BODY—OUR FAMILY

Are you one of His? If so, this is for you. I am not an evangelist. I don't write to lost souls. I write to those waiting and watching rather than walking with the Lord. It's time to rise, get up and walk. It's time to trust and obey. So, let's start down the path together.

Our responsibility is to our fellow believers. If you read this then know that I am responsible to you. You are responsible to me. We are unprepared to meet our responsibilities, but it is our responsibility all the same.

The Lord is our God. The Lord is our Friend. Jesus is our Brother. Christ is our Head. In Him, we are one and therefore share the same issues, the same concerns, the same joys. We are a family. We are one body. Let's agree with Him and function as one.

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *New to Layman's Fellowship? See Last Page…*
- *It's not about me or you, It's about Him*
- *There is an Enemy and he doesn't want the truth to be known*
- *The Lord is ready for you to be free, are you?*
- *He is coming, it may be soon…*

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PREFACE—SOMETHING TO SHARE

I do have something to share with you, but before I continue I want you to know I am unpublished. I am not an author. I may not be a very good writer. I don't really know. I am not sure what will become of this writing process. I have come to a decision to distribute what I am about to write. I am choosing not reveal my identity. There are a number of reasons for this choice. First and foremost these writings are not about me. They are about God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit. They are about the Lord in my life as the true author (the author of me).

If anything is to come out of this writing process, then I am sure there may be opinions about what I have to say and the way I say it.

Please keep in mind that I don't claim to be anyone or anything. I am a servant of the living, loving God who has worked in me and through me.

If you like my writing. Keep reading. If you don't like my writing. Stop reading. If you don't like what I write or the way I write please accept my apologies in advance. As I mentioned I am not really a writer and even if I tried for a long time I wouldn't get it **write!**

Finally, I don't care about being right. I don't care about being wrong. I am happy when I am right (aren't we all?), but I am not too upset when I am wrong. No position is worth dying for except the Lord's position in my life. He is my life. I am His child.

"HIS LIFE IS OVERFLOWING AND CANNOT BE STOPPED BY ANY FORCE OF MAN, ANY FORCE ON EARTH, OR ANY FORCE IN HELL. HE IS THE ONE THAT NOT EVEN DEATH CAN STOP"

CONFESSION OF A. LAYMAN

Many can share their faith. Many have what I have. Many know of the One of whom I speak. If He, the Lord, is in your heart then you know His voice and He knows you. We may or may not listen. We may or may not heed, but we know that He is the One. He is the Christ. He is the son of the living God. He is with us. His name is full of majesty. His word is full of power and authority. His life is overflowing and cannot be stopped by any force of man, any force on earth, or any force in hell. He is the one that not even death can stop. Nothing and no one can overcome Him for He has already overcome.

So, who am I? Simply put: I am one of His. I am a son of God because of Jesus Christ my Lord and Savior. I am one of many that owe the Lord Jesus Christ my whole life. I am one who recognized and committed my life into His hands while I am on earth. I have chosen this path because I once felt the truth of the book of Ecclesiastes.

Ecclesiastes 1:3-11 (KJV)

3 What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?

4 *One* generation passeth away, and *another* generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever. 5 The sun also ariseth, and the sun goeth down, and hasteth to his place where he arose. 6 The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about unto the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits. 7 All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea *is* not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again. 8 All things *are* full of labour; man cannot utter *it* : the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

9 The thing that hath been, it *is that* which shall be; and that which is done *is* that which shall be done: and *there is* no new *thing* under the sun. 10 Is there *any* thing whereof it may be said, See, this *is* new? it hath been already of old time, which was before us. 11 *There is* no remembrance of former *things* ; neither shall there be *any* remembrance of *things* that are to come with *those* that shall come after.

A pretty bleak view. Amazingly this comes from a man, King Solomon, who was blessed with wisdom and knowledge above all men before and after him. He was given not only wisdom and knowledge, but all of the earthly treasures and pleasures. In short, he had it all. Everything you could want. Everything you could desire. Yet he writes of such bleakness and despair. I do not know King Solomon personally and I am no King Solomon. Yet, I

CONFESSION OF A. LAYMAN—CONTINUED

have felt this bleakness and despair. I toil along with all mankind under the sun and it profits me nothing, except to repeat the process again. Some may disagree and say that there is some profit. This is a lie. There is no profit, there is no gain, there is no "progress" under the sun. There is only the appearance of profit, the appearance of gain, the appearance of "progress". The truth is that you (we) will die. You (we) will leave with nothing more than you (we) entered. You (we) will take nothing from this earth. No profit, no gain, no "progress". You will only have what you have been given if you chose to receive the gift given by Jesus Christ. You will leave with the guarantee of resurrection at the chosen time and the reward of eternal life in communion with God. You will be in right relationship with the Lord.

I speak plainly. I choose not to mince words and find some way to connect to you in your everyday living. Your everyday living will pass. You know it. It is not a mystery to you. You will die. It is your destiny. It is all of our destiny. We must all come to meet death. Death will overpower you. It will overcome you. You will be taken by it.

All your profit, all your gain, all your "progress" will pass and you will have only what you have been given if you chose to receive a free gift given by God through Jesus Christ. You will have eternal life. You will be in right relationship to God. You will be one with the Father through the Son, Jesus Christ. You will have come to God through the working of the Holy Spirit in your life. You won't be able to explain it fully to anyone. You won't be able to justify your experience. You won't be able to apply logic, reason, doctrine, or any other kind of human philosophy. You will have it, because you received it, or you won't have it. It won't matter what slice of doctrine or religion you chose. It won't matter if you prayed with the right words. It won't matter if you did all the right things at all the right times. It will matter what you believe in your heart. It will matter what God thinks and says of you. It will matter what is really true of you. You are redeemed, saved, blessed and made holy. Why? Because, you chose to receive the one who can redeem, save, bless and make you holy. You are in Christ Jesus. You are His. Just as I am His.

So who am I? I am the author, but more importantly I am His. I pray that I can claim this until the moment of my death. I pray that His faith will endure in me until the end, for my faith is not enough. My will, my thoughts, my feelings, and my deeds always miss the mark.

The truth is that I fall short of Him in every way. I am an arrogant man. I am an impure being. I am a long list of terrible and despicable things.

I am:

- Unrighteous (full of self-righteousness)
- Fornicater (full of lust)
- Wicked (full of trouble, mischeviousness, like to cause harm, vile)
- Covetous (have a craving for possession)
- Malicious (desire to cause pain, injury, or distress to another)
- Full of envy (resentful awareness of advantages enjoyed by another and a desire to possess the same advantage)
- Debater (full of contention and argumentativeness)
- Deceitful (having a tendency or disposition to deceive)
- Ill-willed (wishing suffering, pain and distress on others)
- Gossip (habitual revealer of personal facts about others against their wishes or desires)
- Backbiter (speaking mean or spiteful things about others)
- Hater of God (one who dislikes God and His ways)

"WE MUST ALL COME TO MEET DEATH. DEATH WILL OVERPOWER YOU. IT WILL OVERCOME YOU. YOU WILL BE TAKEN BY IT."

CONFESSION OF A. LAYMAN—CONTINUED

- Despiteful (full of expression which is hateful and malicious)
- Proud (displaying excessive self-esteem)
- Boaster (speaking with excessive pride)
- Inventor of evil things
- Disobedient to my parents
- Lacking in understanding
- Breaker of promises
- Lacking in natural affection (desiring things which go against the laws of nature)
- Not capable of being changed (incorrigible)
- Unmerciful (lacking compassion for one who has offended me)

Note: This list comes from Romans 1:29-30.

What did I miss? Fill in the blanks…it's not too hard.

_____

_____

_____

In all honesty, I can say I have not physically murdered someone. But in truth, I have probably been party to the murder of at least one person's soul. Putting to death their thoughts, feelings, and desires to such an extent that they even despaired for their life. Can anyone of us say we have not been party to this kind of process. Does it not make us all murderers of a kind. In our self-righteousness we claim innocence, but in God's eyes He knows the truth of our disgusting behavior.

James 2:10-11

10 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one *point* , he is guilty of all. 11 For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law.

In other words: Fail in one thing. Fail in them all.

I cannot claim innocence on any account. I am accountable. Although I inherited many of these things from my earthly parents, I also, in truth, inherited from the father of lies. I inherited them from the Enemy, Satan. I cannot and will not place the blame on anyone else. Neither my parents, nor friends, nor acquaintances, nor anyone else on this earth. Neither will I place the blame on the father of lies, the enemy, Satan himself. Even though my parents, my friends, my acquaintances, and others have played a role and even though the enemy, Satan, and his realm have tempted me time and again, it is me who was tempted and fell in the face of temptation. I must own the fruits of temptation which lead into the many ways of destruction. I must admit that I have colluded, bartered, and been in league with the enemy. In fact, I have been his henchman. I am a traitor (to my parents, to my friends, to my acquaintances, and to all of those I have contacted in my life). Worst of all, I have betrayed the One, Jesus Christ, who is faithful to me. I am only worthy of death as He would dole it out to me in righteous judgment.

James 1:14-15

14 But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. 15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

It is in my own lust that temptation takes its grip and does not let go. As it was with Cain. So it is with me.

Genesis 4:5-10

5 But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.

6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen? 7 *If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door.* And unto thee *shall be* his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

8 And Cain talked with Abel his brother: *and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother, and slew him.*

"GOD DID NOT RESPECT CAIN'S OFFERING."

"GOD HAS NOT RESPECTED MY OFFERING...IT WASN'T GOOD ENOUGH."

CONFESSION OF A. LAYMAN—CONTINUED

[9] And the LORD said unto Cain, Where *is* Abel thy brother? And he said, I know not: *Am* I my brother's keeper? [10] And he said, What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.

God did not respect Cain's offering. Cain was angry, jealous, and coveted the position of Abel. Cain could not let it go. The seed of envy was planted, watered, and bore death as it's fruit, in the death of Abel and eventually the death of Cain.

God has not respected my offering. I offered myself to the very best of my ability. It wasn't good enough. It was not acceptable in his sight. I was found destitute and completely unworthy of any thing, any gift, any blessing.

Do I feel the depth of my destitution. Honestly, no. Does this change the fact that I am destitute? No. I am. It is a simple and plain truth. I am worthless. I may know this a little more closely than others because of my particular path in life. I may not know this as well as others whose life has been riddled with more bumps, bruises, breaks, illnesses, incapacities and shortcomings.

I think I know much when in fact I know so very little. I strive to attain the highest knowledge of God, but I do it for my own sake and not for the sake of our Father in heaven or the Son who came to us to share all he is with each of us individually and all of us together as the body of Christ. I seek my own when I should truly be seeking Him. I am ashamed of Him for He has poured Himself out on my life and I speak nothing of it as a witness to so many who could gain from the riches and the mercies He has given to me and my life. I do not know how to speak of the unsearchable greatness of Him in a way that may enliven the minds, the hearts, and spirit of many men. So, why do I write? Why do I try to convey anything? Why do I not keep my lips sealed? It is because I believe and I hope in the call to testify of Him who is faithful even when I am faithless. Is it in vain? I can only hope in my call that it is not and that the Lord would take some advantage of what I have to say.

He is our Lord. He is our savior. He is coming. He will arrive soon. Be ready. Listen. Heed. Know Him. Follow Him. He is Jesus Christ. Lord of Lords. King of Kings. He is ready to take his throne on earth as it is in Heaven. Are you ready for Him to take over?

I hope I am. I hope we are. I hope, I pray, I believe He will come soon. Come, Lord Jesus. We all need you here. We all need you now whether we realize it or not.

-A. Layman

"I BELIEVE AND I HOPE IN THE CALL TO TESTIFY OF HIM WHO IS FAITHFUL EVEN WHEN I AM FAITHLESS. IS IT IN VAIN? I CAN ONLY HOPE IN MY CALLING THAT IT IS NOT AND THAT THE LORD WOULD TAKE SOME ADVANTAGE OF WHAT I HAVE TO SAY."

MORE ABOUT LAYMAN'S FELLOWSHIP

Each of our lives is a work in progress. We rise in the morning, go about the day, and go to sleep in the evening.

These writings are also a work in progress. We do not expect or demand perfection. We pray that through all things and in all things the Lord would lead us to perfection. However, it is clear from the Word that we will not reach perfection until He returns and we are raised or changed from the bodies we were born with (which are destined for death) to a new state which death cannot affect (which means eternal life). See 1 Corinthians 15.

Therefore we endeavor until His return through the struggle of our daily lives to know Him while our current bodies continue towards death with the hope that we will live an eternal life through the victory Jesus Christ has given to us through His gracious death.

Throughout christianity there is a wealth of knowledge stored up in books and christian ministries about any topic you could ever want to explore. We encourage you to explore these resources. However, this is not the primary purpose of Layman's Fellowship. We are here to invite you, the individual believer, into a closer walk with the Lord. We hope the thoughts, feelings, and experiences of your fellow believer will encourage you, strengthen you, and entice you into knowing Him more closely.

Just as you do not have perfect theology, neither will your fellow believer. Please have the grace to read past the theological errors and wrong thinking you might perceive in what your brothers and sisters write to you and find it in your heart to hear the Lord speaking through their life.

THE SONGS, TEACHINGS, REVEALED TRUTHS AND INSIGHTS YOU HAVE BEEN GIVEN ARE IMPORTANT TO THE BODY.

WANT TO SHARE SOMETHING WITH US?

Everyone has something to share:

1 Cor 14:26 (KJV) - How is it brethren? when you come together, every one of you has a psalm, a doctrine, a revelation, an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

We would love to hear what the Lord has given to you, is showing to you, or what you have to say to the body of Christ. It doesn't matter if you have the perfect terminology, or all the right verse references. Jesus did not come to save the scholar. Jesus did not come to save the President or the Prime Minister. Jesus came to save you and me.

The songs, teachings, revealed truths and insights you have been given are important to the body. If you are willing to spend the time to share with us, we would love to share it with the body of Christ.

How does it work? You send us something to *laymanpowered@gmail.com* and we'll read it. It will be reviewed by several laymen. The purpose of the review is for content and the speaking of the Spirit. We are not here to correct your theology. Each reviewer realizes that experiencing the Lord is a personal process and it is not our job to control what the Head, Christ, is delivering to the body for nourishment. We are not here to try and make you think right. We are here to celebrate and encourage growth of the body.

There are some writings that will not be published. No one individual makes this determination. It is done through a process in which a combination reviewers are in agreement that the Spirit is not speaking through your submission. Again, the purpose of Layman's Fellowship is **fellowship**. It is not a theological journal or a forum for debating various belief systems. It is a place for believers to share how Christ has worked in their lives and to share what the Lord is revealing through the members of His body!

Send us a song! Send us your testimony! Send us your writing!

Layman's Fellowship

Contact us at
laymanpowered@gmail.com

Layman's Fellowship can only be contacted via e-mail at this time. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

See previous page to learn how to share with us!

Via The Internet!

Want To Know More ???
See The Previous Page

Layman's Fellowship is just that…the fellowship of laymen. All articles are written by laymen. Why, you might ask? Because, it is our belief that the power of God's people is ***in God's people****. Our hope is that the power of God's people might be unlocked and shared. It is also our objective to be in agreement with God and His word. Namely, Christ is the head and we are all members of one body…The body of Christ. So, come join with us in the fellowship of all believers!*

For we are like living stones, so let yourselves be used to build a spiritual temple—to be holy priests who offer spiritual sacrifices to God. He will accept those sacrifices through Jesus Christ (1 Pet 2:5)

Layman's Fellowship—Distributed via the Internet!

To manage costs we exclusively distribute Layman's Fellowship through the Internet. You are free to reproduce Layman's Fellowship at no charge. We only ask that you do not charge for any reproduction or content of Layman's Fellowship. Some things in life come with a price. The price for our fellowship has already been paid by Jesus Christ. Out of gratitude to the Lord we distribute this for free. Please do the same (except for delivery costs) without making any modifications.

To The Reader

There are a few important items to be aware of while reading:

1. The purpose of these writings is to prepare the body of Christ as the bride. Rev 22:17 "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that hears that say, Come."
2. Please take care not to distribute these writings to non-believer's unless you are specifically led to do so by the Lord. Why? Because, this is primarily intended for the Lord's body.
3. These articles are written with conviction and wrought in years of growth and learning. Hear the witness of those who have placed their lives in the hands of the living God. We pray each believer will come into a closer walk with the Lord.
4. The author(s) do not claim any qualifications or accreditation from any school, seminary, church or para-church organization. We rely on the Holy Spirit. If the Spirit speaks to you through these writings we say, Amen.
5. All authorship is anonymous. This is intentional. These writings are about the Lord.
6. Ani Layman (i.e. *any layman*) are other authors who have submitted their writings for publications. ANY LAYMAN can write. EVERY LAYMAN has a testimony. So, YOU are *Ani Layman*. See the previous page for details on how to submit your writings. Your identity will remain secret. In fact, you don't even have to reveal your identity to us. We'll show you how to keep it secret.
7. Please pray for us that the Lord not lead us into temptation, but keep us and these writings from the Evil one. We need your prayers. Thank you in advance.
8. Layman's Fellowship is distributed free of charge. You may re-distribute at no charge, if you do not charge.

Every person in the body of Christ has the ability to speak through the inspiration of the Holy Spirit

Part of 1 Cor 14

… How is it brethren? When you come together, every one of you has a psalm, a teaching, a revelation, an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying … for you all may speak, so that all may learn and all may be comforted …

Layman's Fellowship is here to give you a place to share with the body of Christ what Christ has been sharing with you!