

22Z06 June Student Update

Hello my friends. I hope everyone is doing well today.

First, order of business. Let's pray. **Father God, Thank You God for this time today. Thank you for each student, teacher, father, mother, brother and sister. Guide my words today so your message is heard despite my words. Help us Father to stay focused on you in the storms of life. When trials and trouble come. You know what we need Lord, we trust You Lord Jesus. And I pray all these things in your Name Lord Jesus, Amen.**

Okay. I hope you are enjoying some time off from school. We will be sending out registration information for next year's program in Late July or Early August. Please check your emails around August 1 for this information.

I want to remind you that you need to follow these messages.

Our YouTube channel is [Punla Christian Ministries - YouTube](#). Please sign up on our YouTube channel to follow our channel and select the notification bell so you will be notified when new content is posted.

if you are having trouble viewing the videos because of poor connections, you also can download podcasts or PDF versions of every message on our website [PUNLA Coffee Table – Jesus! Bible! Life! Let's talk about it!](#) (www.punlacoffeetable.org)

I am not a social media person, but I am posting these video on other sites for your convenience,

Facebook: [Kip Wehrman | Facebook](#)

Twitter: KipWehrman@PUNALtable

Instagram: [Kip Wehrman \(@punlacoffeetable\)](#)

GodTube: search for Punla on GodTube

If you are in our program or want to be in our program, you must sign up for the YouTube channel but it is very helpful to me if you sign up and follow us on as many of these platforms as you can.

Enough of business.

Can I ask you a question? What makes God real to you? Many of us have had moments in our lives when we doubted. We wondered if God was real.

So what makes God real to you? I'm going to share a little of my story with you today. When I was a child, 8-10 years old or so. My hometown church had revivals a couple times a year. I don't know how old I was when I first went forward at the altar call. Then I was saved, Right? But, I have to be honest, I did not feel saved. I knew of God. I was scared of God. But I didn't. I didn't know God. And then, next time there was a revival

I went forward again and again and again and again. It became a bit of a joke among the parents, “there he goes again someone would tell my mom”. I was assured over and over and over again. I was saved, I didn’t need to keep going forward. But I still didn’t know God. I knew of God. I wanted to love God. But I didn’t know God. So every time the same inner pull, as God was pulling on me. Urging me. Calling me to seek Him. But I didn’t. I was a good church kid. But I knew I was missing something. I spent a lot of time talking at God instead of talking with God. I did the things I was supposed to, but that did not make me feel closer to God. God seemed distant and sometimes I wondered if He was real at all.

I drifted through my young life, college and beyond, in what I’ll call a religious trance. I thought I was a Christian, maybe. I went to church, occasionally. I even read my Bible and tried to memorize verses. But all of this was empty to me. It was something I did, it was not who I was.

Over and over again, in my life I had setbacks then successes then trials followed by victories. I thought there had to be a God, but I didn’t know God. I looked at nature and said there has to be a God. The beauty and diversity, the complexity and detailed design had to have a designer. Over time I was convinced that God had to exist. It was the only logical answer. But I still didn’t know God.

Then it happened, one day I simply prayed, “I want to know you Lord”. Then, “I want to know you God”, then day after day, in various forms I prayed Jesus reveal yourself to me. I want to know you. I can’t pinpoint the moment but over time, God did reveal Himself to me. I started to look back over my life and see God at work. I remembered hearing His soft voice in my hear. Feeling His gentle urging. Sometimes, I even experienced abrupt and painful redirections. God was and had been working in my life, now it was my turn. I began to ask for guidance. I asked for peace and hope and joy, when I didn’t feel any of them.

But over time, my conversations with God became two-ways. I’d speak, then I’d feel guidance, urgings, sometimes even miraculous interventions. I started seeing God in my every day ordinary life and my life changed. I became a better version of myself. Far from perfect but better. Day by day, hour by hour better than before. Jesus did that.

Then I got very sick with COVID and my life changed forever. During the days, I was in and out of consciousness, I spoke to God a lot. After those days, I was different. I had surrender to God my life, my moments where His moments. My stuff was really only on loan from God. My money was really God’s money entrusted to me to use for His purposes. And it clicked for me. I finally understood. Now I trust God. I love God. I know God. Jesus is my friend, my savior, my Lord and my King. I belong to Jesus. Nothing else matters in comparison.

If you have doubts, you are not alone. If you feel like you should feel different as a Christian, you are not alone. The Christian life is more than a momentary prayer, then

it's all good from then on. We all have struggles. We all have questions, doubts and pain. It's all about the direction you are traveling. Are you moving toward Jesus or another direction.? If you truly want to know God, you will. It may take time, in my case decades but God will reveal himself to you. Be patient though. God will not override your will, so you need to be persistent. The Bible uses the words endure and abide as well as many others. If you want something, you have to work toward it. Just like a college degree, it takes more effort than filling out the application. You have to work at it, every day. Study, read, go to class, sacrifice your time and energy. You do that for school. What about God.?

I want you to read a few verses on your own time. John 15:1-11 and 2 Timothy 2:8-13.

It's okay to have struggles with your Christian life, doubts, But don't stay there. Ask God to show you, then read the Bible, study God's words, talk with God about everything, thank God for everything, do things in the service of God that are not easy. Use your time, energy and other resources the way God wants you to use them. That's how you get something even more valuable than a college degree. You get Jesus and the hope, peace and assurance that only He can provide. Trust Jesus.

Let's Pray. Father God, Thank You God for everything. Every experience, every person. I am thankful for everything. And help me not to worry but instead focus on you. Put you first in everything we do. I know you are with us when we face challenges and I will trust you, Lord.

I pray for each student, that they trust you, Lord. I pray they pray to you Lord to help their unbelief. Help them to surrender to You and let you guide their paths and decisions. Help each of us to mold our hearts and desires to Yours Father. And I pray your will be done here on earth. I know you are at work in their lives. Help us to see you, Lord Jesus.

I pray this in your name, Lord Jesus Amen

Again, Students. I am so glad we have this time together. No matter what we face, I know our God is Bigger and Stronger than anything we will face in this life. So don't fear anything in this world. I Love you and I am proud of you. God's Blessings.

Until next time. I pray for Joy, Hope, Peace and Assurance from God for each of you. God bless.

Kip Wehrman, Ph.D., P.E.
Managing Director
PUNLA Christian Ministries

John 15:1-11(NAS) *¹I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every branch that bears fruit, He prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. ³You are already clean because of the word*

which I have spoken to you. ⁴Remain in Me, and I in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit of itself but must remain in the vine, so neither can you unless you remain in Me. ⁵I am the vine, you are the branches; the one who remains in Me, and I in him bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not remain in Me, he is thrown away like a branch and dries up; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷If you remain in Me, and My words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be My disciples. ⁹Just as the Father has loved Me, I also have loved you; remain in My love. ¹⁰If you keep My commandments, you will remain in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and remain in His love. ¹¹These things I have spoken to you so that My joy may be in you, and that your joy may be made full.

2 Timothy 2:8-13 (NAS) ⁸Remember Jesus Christ, risen from the dead, descendant of David, according to my gospel, ⁹for which I suffer hardship even to imprisonment as a criminal; but the word of God is not imprisoned. ¹⁰For this reason I endure all things for the sake of those who are chosen, so that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus and with it eternal glory. ¹¹The statement is trustworthy: For if we died with Him, we will also live with Him; ¹²If we endure, we will also reign with Him; If we deny Him, He will also deny us; ¹³If we are faithless, He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.