

JUMP-START YOUR FAITH



"The twenty-four elders will fall down before Him, Who sits on the throne, and will worship Him, Who lives forever and ever, and will cast their crowns before the throne, saying, 'Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and power; for Thou didst create all things, and because of Thy will, they existed, and were created.'" - Revelation 4:10 NASB

Casting Crowns is much more than a name. According to Revelation 4:10, it is a sacred act! We just read that the 24 elders will cast their crowns at the feet of Jesus. Why do they do this? Because their love for Jesus was more important than anything else--treasure, rewards, status, fame. God is so much more than their "go-to Guy," for help in sticky situations. He is their God, and they are His people. And so are you and I.

Another picture, we like to draw, with the name of Casting Crowns, is a picture of "Life Worship." Many of us worship God with our songs, but He calls us to worship Him with our lives--with the things, we do and say; with the things, we watch and listen to; with the way, we treat others. He deserves more than a

song; He deserves a lifesong! Casting my life and all control to the One, Who created me and knows my future, should be the easiest thing in the world to do. But we find that our own, little kingdoms (our plans, our wants, our crowns) can become more precious to us, than our friendship with God. "Great News"--this has just changed for you! You now possess the power to sing a beautiful Lifesong for God.

We want to congratulate you on your decision, to surrender to Jesus. This decision is amazing; but check this out--your salvation-experience was just the beginning. Everyday is a full-on ride toward the day, we find ourselves actually doing Revelation 4:10. Yeah, that's you and I, and a bunch of other believers, being mentioned in that verse--cool, huh? This seven-day devotional journey is

designed to be a spiritual tool, to help you on this awesome journey of casting our crowns at His feet!

Through an acrostic of the word, "CASTING," you will learn seven, elementary principles that will jump-start your journey with Jesus. Don't be mistaken-- they may be elementary in principle, but they are enormous in power! So much so, that if you do these seven things for the next seven days, you will discover an amazing, new life!

Start today, and stay committed!

DAY 1

C: CONNECT with God every day in prayer!

James 4:8 says to "draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." NKJV

JUMP:

Everybody knows that you start acting like the people that you hang out with. God rewards "God-likeness." Prayer is just spending time alone with God and communicating with Him.

START:

Follow this simple plan, to get you started with God through prayer. Take time every morning, and find a quiet place. Close-out distractions, and fix your mind on God. Let another acrostic (C.R.O.W.N.S.) serve as a prayer-point guide. Cut it out, and put it in your Bible.

LITTLE EXTRA:

Go to tonynolan.org/he-can-hear. Tony has an MP3 message on prayer called, "He Can Hear You, Now." You can listen to it or download it onto your computer. It is a must-hear, and it will enhance your prayer life.

C: COMMIT your time to God, by just saying something like, "Dear God, here I am. I desire to be with You. I have things on my heart that I want to talk to You about. My heart is open, to hearing what You desire to speak to me about." Then...

R: READ a Psalm to God. Just go through the Psalms, and find one that resonates with your heart, and read it out loud! He delights in hearing His children praise Him and adore Him through what has been declared about Him in His Word. Then...

O: OPEN your mind to the Voice of Truth, and close-out all negative thoughts from the enemy, Satan. You just read out loud what His Word says about Him; now read out loud what His word says about you! Start today, by reading Romans chapter 8 out loud. Do it now. Read it again, slowly. See it? Yeah, you are loved and always will be, no matter what. Now...

W: WRITE out the things that are on your heart--sins you are dealing with; struggles, you are facing at school and in your life; things that you need or desire to see happen. Write them out, then go through the list and just talk to God about them. Ask Him for help, and after you do, read Hebrews 4:16. Feast your eyes on that Scripture Buffet, again; this time, read it slower. He will help you in your time of need. Then...

N: NEVER be guilty of not asking, because you think that your requests are insignificant to God. He says in I Peter 5:7--"...Cast your cares upon Him, for He cares for you." And in James 4:2, "...You do not have, because you do not ask."

S: SURRENDER your request to His will. Matthew 6:33 says, "...Seek first the Kingdom of God, and these things will be added to you." What is that all about? Simply put, it means that as we surrender all of our wants, desires, and ambitions, so that God's will can be accomplished for His glory and the advancement of His kingdom, He's got our backs! He will take care of you and answer your prayers.

DAY 2

A: AVOID the evil junk that will rob you of your rewards.

*Proverbs 16:17 says, "The highway of the upright avoids evil; he, who guards his way, guards his life."
NIV 1 Corinthians 10:12-13 (Good stuff!)*

JUMP:

The junk we are talking about, is called "sin." Sin is the bad stuff in life that God tells us not to do. Why does He do that? Is He a happy leach that just wants to suck the joy out of our lives? No, He only tells us to keep clear of the sin, because it will destroy us. He wants you to live life to the fullest and to know what sin is, so you can avoid it!

Got friends? --I did something that hurt my friend's feelings, once. Instead of apologizing, I acted like it never happened and tried to keep "buddying" around with him. But something just wasn't right. Sin places distance between us and our friendship with God. Sin isn't an "oopsie" or a "goof" that we can ignore. Sin is a nail in the hand of Jesus.

START:

Follow this simple plan to get you started with God through prayer. Take time every morning, and find a quiet place. Close-out distractions, and fix your mind on God. Let another acrostic (C.R.O.W.N.S.) serve as a prayer-point guide. Cut it out, and put it in your Bible.

DAY 3

S: SING to God through Spiritual Songs!

Ephesians 5:18b, 19 says, "...Be filled with the Spirit. Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord." NIV

JUMP:

When someone gets drunk, he is under the influence of an intoxicating substance. In comparison and contrast, we are not to be controlled with alcohol, but with the Spirit of God! How do you let God intoxicate you and put you under His influence? As it says in Ephesians, we are to sing spiritual songs. It has a "Spirit-filling" effect on us.

START:

Begin your prayer time by listening to Praise and Worship CDs, while you follow along with the words and really catch the heart of the worship leader. Popular worship leaders to check-out are; Chris Tomlin, David Crowder, and Michael W. Smith (worship CDs).

*Sing and make
music in your
heart to the Lord.
- Ephesians 5:19b (NIV)*

DAY 4

T: TRACK-down God's promises in His Word, and cash-in on them!!

Psalm 119:89 "Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled in Heaven." NKJV

Titus 1:2--" ... A faith and knowledge resting on the hope of eternal life. Which God, Who does not lie, promised before the beginning of time...."

JUMP:

God speaks, and He always does what He says. It's settled! Did you know that the Bible is filled with things that God has said He will do for you? You need to find out what they are and place your faith in God's promises.

START:

Go to www.tonymolan.org. Click on "Free Devotional," and download Tony's "Spiritual Ketchup" devotional. It will help you learn some key questions to ask, while you are reading your Bible, to help you get the most out of it! Read these verses in the Bible. They will bless ya real good!

Psalm 103:12, 2 Cor.12:9-10, Jeremiah 29:11, Psalm 147:3, and 1 John 1:9.

*"Forever, O Lord,
Your Word is settled
in Heaven."*

-Psalm 119:89 (NKJV)

DAY 5

I: INVOLVE yourself every week in a community of other believers.

Hebrews 10:25 says, "Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another--and all the more, as you see the Day approaching."

JUMP:

You are now in the family of God. Hang-out with your new brothers and sisters in the Lord at a local church. God knew that we would need to be encouraged by other believers, as we grow in our walks with Him. Sit at the feet of a gifted preacher and teacher, who can guide you through God's Word. Get plugged into your new family, and lift others up, just as you are lifted up.

START:

Make contact with a pastor or youth pastor, and tell him that you are a new believer. Ask for help getting connected to other new believers, your age. Talk to your pastor about baptism. (Baptism is your first, big, public statement to the world, of what God has done in your life.) The local church will become your matrix for staying in-line with the abundant life.

DAY 6

N: NIX the “secret sins” that render your prayers powerless.

Daniel Chapter 3.

JUMP:

The Devil is real and powerful, and he wants to steal, kill, and destroy your life. Scary, huh? He is not the guy in the red suit, with the pitchfork. He is real, and he invades and attacks our lives through our culture! One of his tactics, is to hold you hostage with secret sins. The good news is, Jesus sets you free!

START:

Visit tonynolan.org/resources/free-devotionals. Click and download the “Monsters in My Closet” Bible study. Read it and heed it. Nuff said?

DAY 7

G: GLORIFY God in all that you do!

1 Corinthians 10:31 “Whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.”

JUMP:

Before you gave your heart to Jesus, you were all about something--all about baseball, football, boyfriend/girlfriend, shopping, web-surfing....Now you are called to be all about God! Let God’s interests, God’s passions, God’s desires, God’s goals, and God’s allegiances become yours.

START:

Listen to Casting Crowns song “Lifesong,” and read the words, as you partake! Drink slowly, and let it soak into your heart with direction and purpose. Now, go and sing your LIFESONG! Consider yourself JUMP-STARTED! Just keep this stuff going in your life, and things are going to be awesome. Be faithful to your local church. Be there on Sundays, and get involved in a ministry. Remember, you are now a part of the Body of Christ; and He wants to live through you, to help others get this same salvation that you received. Sing your LIFESONG loud for God! May the Lord Jesus Christ deeply bless you!

Originally developed for the Casting Crowns Lifesong Tour. Content by Tony Nolan and Mark Hall. © 2008



Meet Tony Nolan. He’s been called a reaper of souls, a harvest evangelist. He’s also been called authentic and down-to-earth; animated, funny, real. Most of all, he’s been called by God to preach the Gospel across the country.