

# THE **EMPOWERED** CHRISTIAN **ROAD MAP**

A Guide for Evangelicals: 8 Key Principles  
for Unswerving Faith, Laser-Focused Direction,  
and a Life Driven by Purpose and Action



**FULL COLOR  
EDITION**

**BRIAN S. HOLMES**

**MPOWERED**   
**CHRISTIAN**  
MAKE DISCIPLES CREATE REVIVAL

# THE **EMPOWERED CHRISTIAN** ROAD MAP

Let us **RUN** with **ENDURANCE**  
the **RACE** set out for us. Hebrews 12:1 BSB

**SO RUN TO WIN!** 1 Cor. 9:24 NLT

**THEOLOGY** **MISSION**  
**APOLOGETICS** **DEFENSE**  
**DISCIPLESHIP** **CHURCH**  
**CHAMPION** **VISION**

**CALLING**  
**PURPOSE**

THIS LANDMARK WORK marries biblical Christian doctrine with actionable life coaching. Using cars as a metaphor for individuals, and a long journey as a metaphor for life, pastor, Christian apologist, and empowerment life coach Brian Holmes navigates the journey with you. Packed with creative car metaphors and graphics woven throughout, every vital aspect of Christian belief and living are covered, arranged sequentially and holistically in a memorable and applicable way. Equal parts theology, apologetics, discipleship training, personal growth, and life direction, you'll gain a deeper grasp of the Christian pilgrimage and a closer relationship with God along the way. It covers everything from the nature of God and meaning of life to worksheets to determine what you should do today for success tomorrow. Practical tips for individuals, Bible study groups, and churches ready to accelerate their impact. Demonic lies debunked! Sin will be overpowered! Faith, freedom, healing, presence, and purpose are in view!

YOU'LL LEARN HOW TO: detect, diagnose, and solve problems in your life; avoid common obstacles in the future; overcome tough life challenges and setbacks; navigate touchy cultural, social, and political issues; better control your thoughts, how you feel, and what you do; and gain laser-focused direction on your mission and unique calling as a follower of Jesus. After the Bible, this colorful, insightful, and engaging guide will be the next most important book to have! This manual of "Essential Christianity" will assist and empower you for a lifetime!

- Bible College-level Theology for Laypeople
- Evaluations, Questions, and Assignments
- Hundreds of Whole Bible Verses with Index
- Hundreds of Topics with Topical Index
- Complete Spiritual Warfare Manual
- Discover Your Identity & Plan Your Mission
- Understand & Discover Actual Spiritual Gifts
- Learn How to Utilize Illness/Suffering for God
- Unravel False Religions & Bad Christianity
- Discern New Age Spirituality & Word of Faith
- Examine Different Christian Missions & Roles
- Unlock the Highest Potential of the Church



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**"Your journey will still be difficult but the map shouldn't be! Knowing where you're going, how to get there, and how to tell where you are right now should be the easy part!"**



# *The Empowered Christian Road Map*

by Brian S. Holmes



Brian S. Holmes is the Pastor, Founder, and President of MPowered Christian Ministries, a division of MPowered Living, Inc. MPowered Christian Ministries is dedicated to global revival by the Kingdom of God in every city. They provide a variety of services, products, and resources to mobilize disciples to advance the Kingdom of God globally.

For information, visit <https://MPoweredChristian.org>



*The Empowered Christian Road Map*

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## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to my Heavenly Father, and my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, without whom this book would not only be impossible to make, but totally unnecessary to make. Without Your gracious salvation, adoption, and commission, me, and countless others like me, would still be lost, aimlessly wandering the tumultuous paths of life searching for meaning.

I pray that this work is full of spirit and truth, and that it glorifies You, elevates Christ, and magnifies the gospel. I pray You would use it to abundantly advance your Kingdom and to set people free, bring restoration, build unshakable faith, and give encouragement to many.

I also pray that it reaches far, wide, and deep, and empowers Your bride, the Church, to fully embrace all of her potential.

## FOREWARD

Over the past twenty-two years I've experienced, overcome, learned, and grown a lot. And over the past nine years, the LORD has led me on a personal journey of restoration, rededication, reeducation, and commission to be more and do more. In many ways this work is the fruit of the many lessons I've learned.

I was raised Roman Catholic by loving parents but fell into mischief, ungodly behavior, drugs and gangs for several years. After hitting my rock bottom, I got my life back in order, restored my relationship with my parents, was working, was in love with a girlfriend, and pushing myself to get the best grades ever to graduate high school. On paper everything was great but something was missing. I cried out to the universe searching for what I still lacked. Jesus told me it was Him. I'd forsaken my first love and hadn't even realized He once was. I reaffirmed my faith from that point on, unfortunately, God remained far from the *center* of my life.

After thirteen years as a "lukewarm" evangelical the Lord convicted me and called me out at age thirty, gradually completely uprooting, and simultaneously building upon, much of who I was prior. He's blessed and empowered me with the time, opportunity, talent, personality, and desire to venture the roads less traveled. Never one to pursue the status quo, I didn't want to just become a church pastor. The world is broken and it desperately needs revival. I've been an ambitious, serial entrepreneurial roadrunner, venturing out into many directions, starting many projects, while also being a sponge, soaking up all the knowledge, experience, and wisdom I could along the way. My lack of focus has, perhaps, hindered my success, at least worldly success. The world rewards the specialist, not the self-actualized and balanced, knowing a little about a lot. However, a love of this is how the Lord designed me, and I think this quirk comes with it contentment, wisdom, and fulfillment, and greater potential to teach, coach, and help others. This diverse journey, and the things I've learned on it, have been a blessing to me personally, and I pray that, through this work, they'll be a blessing to you as well.

It's the goal of this book to share with the rest of the Christian world, my brothers and sisters in Christ, many of the things I've learned so far that are helpful in navigating the Christian life and living up to your highest potential. It's with the big picture in focus, and with the important details outlined for easy reference, that our journey can be traveled with confidence and drive. Though tomorrow is not promised for any of us, it's my belief and optimistic hope that my journey, as well as each of yours, is just getting started. We only get to travel this journey once, so let's make it count! Enjoy the ride!

With Love,  
Brian S. Holmes

## PREFACE: HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

This book has been designed to be used in a variety of ways. It could be read from beginning to end for a broad survey of the Christian life. But it could also easily be used for *topical* independent or group study, or as a topical reference book. Since each chapter covers a different key principle in depth each chapter could be used as an independent curriculum. Additionally, chapters are divided into main **Sections (I, II, III)**, and within these broken down into smaller **Subsections (A, B, C, etc.)**.

For example, consider this condensed version of the Table of Contents of Chapter One below, which is about getting a new map. (See page 7 for full version) The *purpose* of life, *why* we need a new map, could be studied separately in **Section I**, beginning on page 8, whereas **Section III** is about the *final destination*, beginning on page 60. As a Christian you should know there's more than one destination. There's both Heaven and Hell. So, if you'd like to study or defend that specific topic you can choose to go right to the final section: **Section (P)**, beginning on page 69. There you'll get teaching, supplementary Bible verse references to look up, and even many whole verses used to prove the validity of the historical Christian doctrines on that topic. Suppose you've already read this chapter but just want to reevaluate your knowledge, confidence, faith, application, etc. just go to **Section IV**, beginning on page 76. There you'll find a personal evaluation tool, group discussion questions, and a place to take notes or plan to-do tasks for the week.

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**BIBLE QUOTATIONS.** Throughout this book over a hundred Scripture verses are quoted—in full—in stand apart areas, and sometimes within the main copy (*in a font like this*) to support the teachings provided. Occasionally, I quote partial verses that have excess content irrelevant to my point. When I seldom do this the verse includes an “a” if it shows the entire first half of the verse, or “b” if the latter half. This way you still get to read God’s Word rather than mine. I don’t think it’s best to bounce between many translations picking those that fit best with *my* words. If what I’m saying is biblical then all good translations will reflect it; they don’t need my effort to help it agree. To make the book uniform, scholarly yet user-friendly, and easy to study further, I did what no one does: I used a *single* translation: the Berean Study Bible. I’ve found it to be a great translation with high literal accuracy on par with the NASB and ESV, easy readability like the NIV, with structure often like the KJV. You can read it in full at (<https://bereanbible.com>) or effortlessly compare it side-by-side with your preferred translation as you read this book at (<https://biblehub.com>), which also incorporates many other Bible study tools.



# THE **EMPOWERED CHRISTIAN**

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**Looking for something specific?** A brief summary of each chapter is in the Introduction starting on page 1. Also, a summary of each subsection (ABC, etc.) is provided in its subtitle. There's also a Topic Index on page 385.





# ROAD MAP

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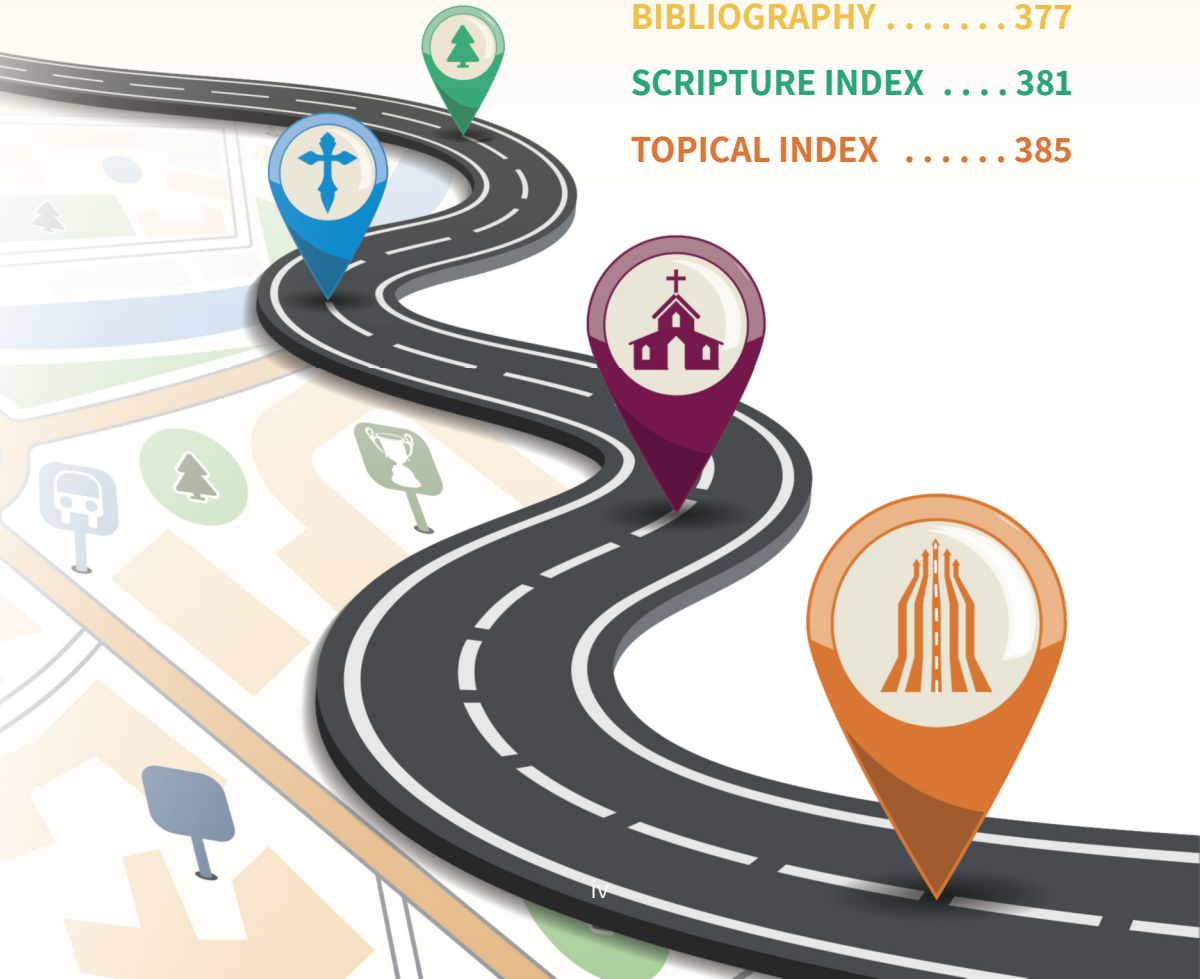
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# Introduction

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## Hey Siri... Am I even going in the right DIRECTION?!?!

Were you told God loves you just as you are and has a wonderful plan for your life? Perhaps your favorite TV preacher tells you God just wants you to be happy, healthy, and wealthy? Did you know most people believe they're already a good person and they'll go to Heaven? Did you know that we're all sinners and that without repentance, faith, and a right walk with Jesus we won't? Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14, "*For wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the way that leads to life, and only a few find it.*" It's our faith in the gospel that saves us—the good news that Jesus is the eternal Son of God who died for our sins on the cross and then rose from the dead. Your journey begins there. This book will help you understand, with deep clarity and fresh insights, this truth and hundreds of others. My goal is to not only guide you through the narrow way but empower you to success—total lasting success! I want you to be an *empowered* Christian, who does great things, but here's the harsh truth: Many who call themselves Christians aren't even saved yet!

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Matthew 7:21 [*Jesus*] "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. <sup>22</sup>On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' <sup>23</sup>And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

NOTE: ALL VERSE QUOTATIONS IN THIS BOOK ARE FROM THE BEREAN STUDY BIBLE. SEE COPYRIGHT AND PREFACE PAGES FOR INFO.

Don't get mad at me—those are Jesus's words, not mine! And that's about people that were *actively* following Him enough to be prophesying, casting out demons, and doing works in His name. How much worse off are some of us: the Sunday-only Christians, the Christmas-only Christians, the living-in-perpetual-sin Christians? Some of you picked up this book thinking you're starting this journey in the middle but you're actually closer to the starting line. That's okay though! *Real* empowerment comes from being equipped with everything you need to be successful. This begins with clarity of what is true. It means knowing the truth about God and His plan of redemption, even if it's not inclusive or politically correct. It means knowing the truth about who you are, and where you currently are, even if in all its brutal honesty it's not a very good place. It means having a true and clear road map of how to get from where you are to where you want to go.

For better or worse, your *past* beliefs and efforts have brought you to the present. Whether you're in a great place right now - or not - in order to be more and do more, you must continue to learn and grow



### Quick thought

Are you defining "success" the world's way, your own way, or God's way?

and move into new territories. Life isn't stagnant, it's always moving. If you're not moving forward, you're moving backward. If you're not growing, then you're dying. If you're not improving, then you're getting worse. And if you're not moving towards God, and His plan for your life, then you're moving away from God and His plan for your life. We all want success, but rarely do we define or really understand the success we seek before trying to get it. If we want to be *truly* successful in life, we're going to have to redefine "success" God's way, and then actively pursue it God's way. *The Empowered Christian Road Map* does just this. It helps you properly see the terrain ahead accurately, define success rightly, and measure your progress towards it. My goal for this book is for it to be used like a manual that provides the outline of the most critical parts of your journey. This will make it easier to diagnose areas you have less certainty about so you can learn more about them and work on them. To know and not to do is really not to know. I wish I would've had this: a blueprint and guidebook of the Christian life that didn't just help me know what to *believe*, but also what to *do* next. One that helped me develop the skills to think through tough subjects and have the mindset and emotional resolve to identify concerns to course-correct. This book is organized sequentially so each chapter, and each subsets within chapters, build upon the previous. However, each subtopic has its own section so you can also easily reference them separately later. Each chapter provides lots of indicators and guide posts you can use to review your own personal progress throughout your Christian journey, so you can make adjustments as needed.

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**The journey will still be difficult, but the map shouldn't be. Know *where* you're going and *how* to get there!**



## CHAPTER 1: THE RIGHT ROAD MAP

To be successful you must start with the right map. It doesn't matter how fast you're traveling, or how much progress you make along the way—if you're going in the wrong direction! In Mark 8:34-36 Jesus said we needed to pick up our crosses, follow Him, and lose our lives for the sake of Him and the gospel, then we'd

find true life. *That's* Jesus's example of the right direction! God *does* want you to be successful, to "find life," and have "abundant life." (*Matt. 10:37-39, John 10:10*) But God has a different definition of success and abundant life. After this book I think you will too. This chapter is a broad survey of Christian theology and essential doctrine. You'll learn the purpose for it all, the reason we exist, God's nature: Holy Trinity, the necessity of absolute truth, how and why we're made in God's image, the benefits of the Fall, the dynamics of human free will, why Jesus is the only way to be saved, how He fulfilled the Law of God, how to interpret the Law today, why we need to be born again and how, the nuances of baptism, God's desire to make us like Jesus, our adoption by God the Father, and all about our two possible destinations: eternal life on New Earth or eternal death in Hell.

## CHAPTER 2: REBUILT AND HEADED IN A NEW DIRECTION



This chapter provides greater detail about why and how we become a rebuilt car (born again) before our journey can even start. Part 1 describes different aspects of the fallen human condition. Part 2 is about Soteriology, the study of *how* we're saved, going deeper in topics briefly covered in chapter one including God's grace, humility, repentance, faith, atonement, forgiveness, and imputation. Part 3 provides insights into your new nature, covering the necessity of regeneration and sanctification, and how to get the most out of it! Section O gives an overview of the Bible and its reliability for guidance. This will give your Christian faith some muscle! You'll learn why to trust God's Word and how to rely on the Holy Spirit inside of you to venture towards your destination with confidence.

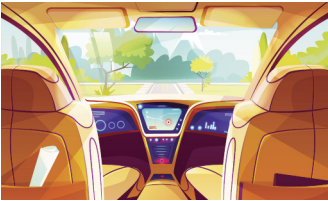
## CHAPTER 3: DUMPING THE GARBAGE BAGGAGE



Building off of the foundations of the previous, even the new car can still be bogged down with garbage baggage that needs to be removed. This spiritual warfare and counter-cult apologetics manual will teach you about Satan's true nature as a saboteur and equip you for victory! Part 2 describes bad drivers and passengers to throw out of your car including beliefs from harmful philosophies, false religions, legalism, demonic spirituality posing as the Holy Spirit, sinful lifestyles and



identities incompatible with godliness, and unbiblical beliefs about Jesus espoused from Islam, the New Age, or Christian cults. The Holy Spirit must be driving instead of one of *these* to affirm that you're truly a new car! Detailed comparisons and documentation of the divinity and humanity of Jesus provided. Part 3 teaches about different types of open doors that need to be closed including hyper-grace beliefs, false repentance, sinful behavior, toxic habits, toxic relationships, soul ties, curses, cursed objects, emotional brokenness, and unforgiveness. Driving with this junk in your car will hinder your journey, making it less enjoyable, fruitful, or successful.



## CHAPTER 4: THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE CAR

Now you're moving along but the journey is long with plenty of bumps in the road ahead. How will you control the *vibe* in the car? What's playing on the radio? What's the conversation about? I cover how your thoughts and beliefs affect how you feel, and how you feel affects what you do. Part 1 deals with beliefs: how to crucify old patterns, reaffirm your new identity and righteousness in Christ, understand your election and what the unpardonable sin is, confirm your salvation, and renew your mind using God's Word. Part 2 deals with emotions: good vs. bad, and living with gratitude, optimism, and a conqueror mentality. Part 3 deals with behavior: how the Holy Spirit empowers us to overcome and persevere, and how to use prayer, warfare prayer, worship, activations, and declarations to rebuke Satan. Includes an 11-page exposé on Word of Faith (Health & Wealth) beliefs that pervade the Church so you're not misdirected by a counterfeit New Age-influenced faith, but empowered by genuine faith!

## CHAPTER 5: THE NEW DIRECTION IS VERY FRUITFUL



Next, you'll get your compass: fruitfulness. You'll use the fruit of your life and decisions for navigation to know if you're going in the right or wrong direction. Part 1 looks at the significance of fruit and why it needs to be an expression of God's character to be good, and attributes of those in God's Kingdom, like humility and childlike faith. Part 2 examines the aspects of fruits of righteousness such as: God's Law to govern Israel, its relation to repentance, how it manifests first inwardly in the heart and then flows outwardly through individuals into families and society. Next, I cover biblical justice and both the godly and demonic aspects of the modern social justice movement, including how certain supposedly-good cultural trends will be used by the Antichrist. Part 3 covers how good fruit must be humble, merciful, obedient, and driven by right motives. You'll learn how: works don't assist in salvation but faith without them is dead, they're evidence of saving faith, sanctification, and being Jesus's disciple. You'll learn how they must be built on Jesus to have eternal significance because He's the vine and foundation, and can merit eternal rewards later!



## CHAPTER 6: OUR MISSION AS DISCIPLES

The Gospel-centered worldview reveals the differences between fruit and our mission as a follower of Jesus. Part 1 covers how good fruit is only a byproduct, isn't eternal, and may even seem unloving to the world. You'll learn in Part 2 that the Holy Spirit gives us power for a *reason*: for our mission to be an ambassador for Christ, a light in the darkness, and to preach the gospel, make disciples, and advance the Kingdom of God. You'll learn how Jesus reigns now with all authority, what Satan still has authority over, and what we have authority over. In Section (F) I refute the Catholic Church's claim to be the true Church and several of their practices as unbiblical. Part 3 covers how to run the race, be a good and faithful servant, receive rewards at the BEMA judgment, and endure, persevere, and witness during the Tribulation and Last Days.

## CHAPTER 7: THE AUTO CLUB (THE CHURCH)

This chapter will shift your perspective of what and who the church is, and what it's for. Part 1 describes the global Church, the Elect, the Body of Christ, and the local congregation. In Part 2 you'll learn Jesus's intended function of the Church was to be united in a common Spirit and mission. To be a community for fellowship, baptism, Lord's Supper, prayer, preaching and study of God's Word, and community outreach and service. Some tips provided to empower churches. Part 3 covers what I call the higher calling of the church: living more like a spiritual family; making discipleship a universal, active, missional lifestyle rather than a class; and equipping and empowering mutual collaboration towards discipleship, total restoration, and advancement of the Kingdom of God. Includes a survey and critical analysis of spiritual gifts in the church today.



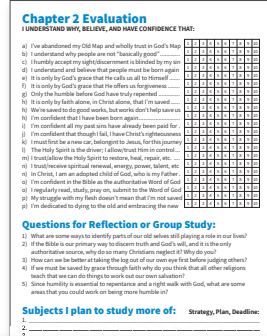
## CHAPTER 8: SAME DESTINATION, ALTERNATE ROUTES



We're all going to the same destination but we each take a unique path there. Part 1 builds off the previous chapter to discover your unique identity and calling in the Body of Christ. You'll learn a simple framework to follow and use exercises to determine *your* highest values, personality type, spiritual gifts, and S.H.A.P.E. You'll learn the A.P.E.S.T. roles in the Global church (and APEST *categories* - my unique take!), and gain insights into how you can be most fulfilled and effective in the local church. You'll learn ways to be more empowered for your unique calling by putting God's presence first, getting regular updates from the Holy Spirit, focusing on your circle of influence and local community, and creating your own vision, mission, and S.M.A.R.T. action plan!

**FEATURES FOR STUDY AND APPLICATION**

To help the many topics in this book be fully digested and acted upon, I've added many features for personal or small group study, reflection, evaluation, and application. Every chapter is organized sequentially for comprehension, and broken down into numerical sections, making it easier to refer to specific topics later. Chapters end with an evaluation for grading yourself - your current level of understanding of main points, as well as your current level of trust, commitment, or personal application. You'll be able to revisit these later and re-grade yourself as you progress throughout your journey (your entire life). I've also included deeper questions for personal reflection or group study. Indexes of Scriptures and Topics are also included.



**Subjects I plan to study more of:** Strategy, Plan, Deadline:

- 1.
- 2.

**I. The Purpose of It All**  
a) They're Not Our Roads ..... 8    c) God's Triune Nature..... 12  
b) Celebrating God's Glory ..... 10    d) Invitation to Eternal Relationship 15

**II. The Opportunity and Invitation**  
a) The Necessity of Truth ..... 17    i) What Do You Want? ..... 37  
f) Made In God's Image ..... 21    j) The Greatest Commandment ..... 39  
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**The Empowered Christian Road Map is here for YOU!**

Don't worry if this seems like a lot! It is! But I'll begin at the starting line with you and we'll walk through it together, step-by-step. This book is for new and mature Christians. My hope is that pastors will consider it a great resource to recommend, helping get it into the hands of every Christian. This book will help you understand and live out Biblical Christianity! I won't promise it'll be an *easy* read because it's jam-packed full of deep spiritual truths, but it's worth it! Decide today to commit to searching for absolute truth and following Jesus wholeheartedly! Jesus expects your best. Like all meaningful activities, if you'll commit yourself to the process of doing important things, consistently, whether you *feel* like it or not, it will change your life! So be ready to learn, grow, and be challenged to live out what is taught. This book will give you lots of insights, direction, and tools for success, but you still need to take the initiative, be proactive, and push yourself to your limits. I promise - IF you commit yourself to Jesus in this life, HE will empower you and YOU WILL be successful. Buckle up and prepare for an amazing journey!





# CHAPTER ONE

## RECALCULATING..... The Right Road Map

**To arrive successfully at the desired destination  
you need to start with the right map!**

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