

# Love Thy Neighbor in Service

## Three Alarm Rescue

Run toward the fire. The instinct of most every human is for self preservation and to run away from any fire. I have actually witnessed only one real house fire in my life.

I was in South Georgia and had pulled into a gas station late one night. Across the street several individuals were standing outside an extremely old wood frame house. When we first noticed the fire it was relatively small, but even at that stage the home owners had already given up and were outside just looking at the fire. Within five minutes the whole house was engulfed, and by ten minutes the flames were at 15-20 feet.

Our car had to be moved for fear of some type of damage from the fire. The heat was so intense you could feel it as a type of air pressure from a distance of over forty yards. I cannot imagine what a wild fire in the west must actually be to experience. By the time the volunteer fire department arrived, their only job was to keep the adjacent wood frame house from catching fire as well. The heat was so severe the firemen would periodically turn the hose on themselves to be able to stand the intense heat. As we could feel it from across the street,



I marveled that anyone would intentionally go toward that type fire. However, the brave firemen were able to keep the house next door from catching fire, and the owners were of course very grateful.

Oddly, the God of the universe (Jesus & the Father) calls me and you to do exactly what the firemen did. Our natural tendency is to see problems in life (a broken down car on the side of the road, a broken down family, a broken life, a homeless person, someone who is simply difficult to be

around) and turn the other way to get as far from the problem as possible. We gravitate toward comfort. We work hard every day to have sufficient food, shelter, clothes, and transportation. For many Americans working to accumulate well beyond the basics in life is normal.

As our focus is so heavily on accumulation, and I am as guilty as anyone I have ever met, deciding to run toward the fire simply does not make sense from an earthly perspective. It can be dangerous. Additionally, it will cost you time, energy and likely money. Why in the world would anyone even bother thinking that way? Without Jesus Christ I don't see a reason why.

We normally follow leaders who draw us to a certain lifestyle. The reason for following can be numerous. A few people are even leaders themselves. For me following anyone or anything is always the result of what I see them do.

The old saying talk is cheap is very true. Jesus calls us to run toward the fire, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me." (Luke 9:23 NIV)

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### Love Thy Neighbor

#### Program Services

Christian Counseling

Telephone Resource Services

Shelter

Transportation

Food

Emergency Cash Assistance

**Ask how you can help!**

**Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. Matthew 22:39**

**Love Thy Neighbor In Service**

41 Marietta Street  
Suite 1020  
Atlanta, GA 30303

Phone: 404-688-1638 (*John Chapman, Jr.*)  
404-577-3152 (*Ministry Office*)  
E-mail: [jchampanjr01@talkamerica.net](mailto:jchampanjr01@talkamerica.net)

**[jchampanjr01@talkamerica.net](mailto:jchampanjr01@talkamerica.net)**

*Email me*

If you have a desire to really come to know the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit in a true way, there are a few simple steps to take. Email me for this life changing information.

**What can you do?**

We need your prayers! It is the most important thing you can do for the ministry.

*"The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."  
(James 5:16 NIV)*

LTN is committed to spreading the Gospel by Christ's example to "love thy neighbor as thyself." Matthew 22:39. To this end, LTN has designed programs with the purpose of helping clients build a relationship of faith in God, regain their dignity and eventually, regain their self-sufficiency. Contact us to learn more about the services and programs.

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HE led by example. Leaving His world of total power and control, He came into ours to be vulnerable to pain and suffering just like you and me. He knew his closest friends would abandon Him in his hour of greatest need.

**T**he people who had been spending their lives waiting for His coming (Pharisees & Sadducees) ended up hating Him. They turned Him over to the people that He had allowed to be in power in the first place (the Romans). The groups combined to kill him in one of the most painful ways imaginable by crucifixion. Jesus came from His place of absolute safety and ran right to the heart of the fire for you and me.

Making the same choice in your life and mine is impossible alone. That is why when Jesus left he said He will send a comforter (the Holy Spirit). It is through

the Holy Spirit that we are empowered to run toward the fire when everything inside is telling you to go the other way.

Interestingly, you will likely never find Jesus in your life until you start running toward other people and their problems. The only way to come to that type conclusion is to find out what Jesus did say and do in His life.

I can tell you that just attending church, listening to the pastor who often sounds like he lives in a different world from you and me, is no way to ever actually find Jesus.

**I** know from personal experience having attended church for ten years and never really taking any of the callings of Jesus seriously. I normally left with a guilt ridden conscience, forgot it all quickly and went on with my life. Not until being in the scriptures often (actually seeking) did real life change begin and Jesus came alive.

**H**E stands at the door (of your life) and he knocks. "Here I am! I stand at the door and knock." (Revelations 3:20 NIV). Will you let HIM in? Will you respond to his call? HE has already given the perfect example of what He wants from you and me.

May God bless you!



**John Chapman, Jr.**