

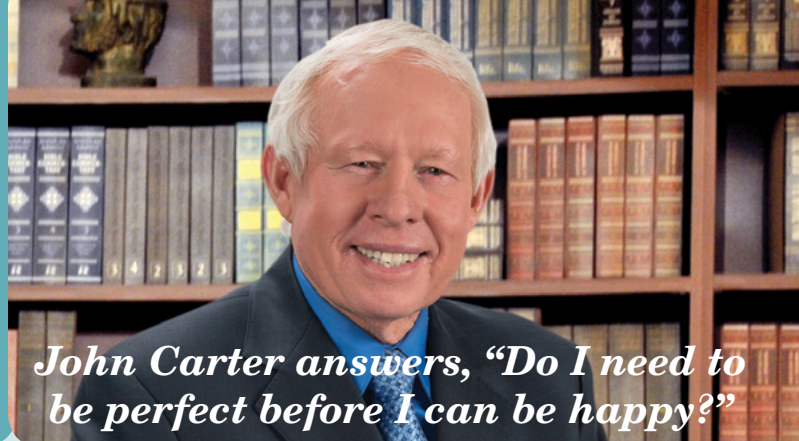


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John Carter answers, "Do I need to be perfect before I can be happy?"



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CONFIDENCE AND COMFORT FOR BROKEN PEOPLE

WHAT I LEARNED FROM A SHIPWRECK AND HOW I SURVIVED THE "CHURCH"

On June 14, 1952, the *Kanimbla* went aground off the east coast of Australia. The 11,000-ton ship had seen action during the Second World War as an armed merchant cruiser. After the war, the Royal Australian Navy returned her to her owners. Now she was carrying 357 souls as she made her way in heavy seas just northeast of Brisbane. *Kanimbla* was cruising at 16 knots when she was hit by a vicious squall and refused to respond to the helm. She went aground off Caloundra. The radio operator sent an SOS, and two tugs from the Port of Brisbane came to the rescue.

My dad worked at the Cairncross dry dock and told me the story. I even got to go to the dock and inspect the damaged *Kanimbla*. I thought it was great fun, a lot better than school. Dad had served his country during the war that lasted from 1939 to 1945. After Pearl Harbor, America joined the struggle against the Germans and the Japanese. During those dark and difficult days, my family got to know and love some of the American soldiers and sailors who came to defend Australia. My dad worked with them at Cairncross Dock. They were wonderful young men, so full of life, courage, and generosity. They touched our lives in so many ways. Dad helped repair their fighting ships that came battered but unbowed to the Port of Brisbane and into Cairncross Dock.

My parents Jean and James Carter during 1980's



The Kanimbla as a armed merchant cruiser during the Second World War



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Now it was 1952. The *Kanimbla* was towed into the same dock and secured. Dad helped to bring her in. She was safe, but she was not sound.

The captain of the *Kanimbla* was Oswald Snowball. Addressing the survivors still onboard the ship, he said, *"I never thought this would happen to me, but there is always danger around the corner when you are at sea. At least you are safe tonight in dry dock."*

KANIMBLA WAS SAFE AND SECURE, BUT SHE WASN'T SOUND. SHE WAS BATTERED, BRUISED, AND BROKEN. SHE HAD HOLES, AND SHE WASN'T HOLY. BUT SHE WAS SAFE.

HERE ARE TWO WORDS THAT CHANGED MY LIFE. THEY WILL ALSO CHANGE YOURS: STANDING and STATE

When I come to Christ and repent of my sins, I am SAFE because I have a PERFECT STANDING with God because He has declared me 100% RIGHTEOUS. I am safe in the dock of His love and grace. But my state is anything but perfect. I am bruised, battered, and broken. I am safe, but I am not sound. I HAVE A PERFECT STANDING EVEN THOUGH MY STATE IS IMPERFECT. Understand this, and the dark clouds of depression will fly away.

Let me prove it to you. This is the great truth Satan and his helpers don't want you to understand and believe.

1. When I come to Jesus and repent of my sins, **GOD JUSTIFIES ME**, not because I am good enough but because HE who died for my sins is good enough.

"...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus..." Romans 3:23, 24 NKJV.

The word JUSTIFY does not mean "TO MAKE RIGHTEOUS." JUSTIFY means to "TO DECLARE RIGHTEOUS." When you trust in Jesus, who paid the debt you owed on the cross, God declares that all your sins are forgiven and that He now considers you to be as righteous and holy as His Son. In a moment, as soon as you trust in Jesus. **YOU HAVE A PERFECT STANDING.**

"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ..." Romans 5:1 NKJV.

2. **YOU ARE SAFE, BUT YOU ARE NOT SOUND. YOU HAVE A PERFECT STANDING BUT A VERY IMPERFECT STATE.** Remember the *Kanimbla*. We who are in the Cairncross Dock of His Grace are still in need of many repairs. We are broken, bruised, and battered. **THERE ARE NO SINLESS PEOPLE**, even though we may meet some who think they are. These Pharisees are the most unhappy people who will drive more souls out of the church than the best preacher can bring in. **AVOID THEM.**

"I was alive once without the law, but when the commandment came, sin revived and I died."

"For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin."

"For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find."

"O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death?"

Romans 7:9, 14, 18, and 24 NKJV.

Who was this man who wrote the words of Romans 7? The answer: Paul, the man who wrote much of the New Testament and was one of the greatest saints who ever lived. He lived so close to God that he was painfully aware of his failings and imperfections. **BUT HE WAS SAFE IN THE DOCK, UNDERGOING REPAIRS. HE WAS SAFE BUT NOT SOUND.**

Mother Teresa was soaked in Jesuit theology. She thought Justification was a process and knew she was not good enough. She feared the fires of purgatory. She had no peace. She even contemplated Atheism. She needed to understand the Good News. **IN JESUS, WE ARE SAFE AND UNDERGOING REPAIRS.**

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BELIEVE, DEAR FRIEND, THE GOOD NEWS. IT ISN'T GOOD ADVICE. IT'S "*GOOD, GLAD, AND MERRY TIDINGS THAT MAKES OUR HEARTS SING FOR JOY AND OUR FEET TO DANCE.*" So said William Tyndale, the great British reformer whose writings influenced the King James Version of 1611.

**THE GOOD NEWS WE PROCLAIM:
IN JESUS CHRIST, WE ARE SAFE.
WE ARE DECLARED RIGHTEOUS.
WE ARE IN THE CAIRNCROSS
DOCK OF HIS GRACE. WE ARE
NOT CONDEMNED. WE ARE
UNDER REPAIR, AND GOD ISN'T
FINISHED WITH US YET! WE
ARE HAPPY!**

WHY LOST CAUSES ARE THE BEST ONES TO FIGHT FOR

Credit: Yousuf Karsh, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Winston Churchill, Britain's wartime prime minister, said it best: "*Lost causes are what we must live and die for. We are facing impossible odds. We stand alone against a terrible and mighty foe. But prevail we must. We shall fight on to the end. We shall be victorious.*" History shows Winston was right.

Today, we face overwhelming odds. Some would say we are mad to try. But we are determined to fight on to the end and win the

battle. Take Ukraine as an example. Many are saying it is a lost cause.

We are not a part of the sordid world of politics. Our flag is the blood-stained banner of Prince Emanuel. Our goal is the saving and emancipation of souls. Join with us in the great work of Christ and His Gospel. This so-called Lost Cause will prove to be the greatest enterprise in the long history of humanity. It will be victorious.

