

Hipster Crosswalk

Things Finally Came Together

Hipster Crosswalk? Sure, we can call it that. Why not? Let's puzzle the pieces together and see. You read *Roadmap* and probably you prayed, huh? Okay, something happened—like a major rush, or it felt as if things finally came together, a spiritual equation solved. Even if the emotions were low key, there's more working here than just you. God's promise is what. Look here, *“Anyone who accepts him becomes his kid.”* (John 1:12) *The inner you, the dude/chick who raps on your misbehavin' self, got a kick start,* a new beginning, (one sunny point... age limits don't apply. If you're here, you're good. Read on).

Imagine that self is a deflated balloon, the air all fizzled out. Then God puffed you full of his breath, filled you up. You felt it, right? A witness? Okay, first clue, that inner self is your spirit. Now Jesus shares that space—you invited him in, remember? Jesus told someone he talked to 2000 years ago about the “born

again” experience. “*Nick, you can’t even see my kingdom ‘less yer born again.*” (John 3:3)

And maybe, in fact, pretty sure you *are* asking, “what next?” Dude, you’re not alone. Everyone wants to know that. *So, the basics: stay believing, quit deceiving, nix the bad, mix the good, trust the voice, dust the noise. The short answer: integrate the gave-it-up for you Jesus with your new self.* Explore the experience, figure out how to let the start-over-you trust God. His m.o. is way better than the hit and miss way you usually do.

Foot On a Banana Peel

Some things may have to change. Word: they will. Girlfriend, don’t look away. I’m talking to you too, bro. Tons of stuff ain’t good for you anyway. Keep living with yer foot on a banana peel and bip, down you go. *Stop whining. Sure, yer young and hip* (or wanna be—may even deem yourself young at heart). *And you don’t want to miss out on the fun, yada-yada-yada. PA-lease! You think ya don’t have a good time over the weekend unless somebody*

throws up in your car? If that's you, stop right now. Step away from the mouse. Don't even finish reading this.

On the flip side, yes, you connected with Jesus when you talked to God. You clicked on something real. So real you felt loved for the first time in life. Yer like looking over your shoulder to see whether you grew wings yet. That baby self, your new born spirit, wants to drive the retro panel van but can't even reach the pedals yet. *So, relax. Okay, you good? Don't let trippy expectations hassle you into becoming some freaky space cadet* who goes over the edge. Guard the peace. Keep centered on that. If you get off track, adjust.

Jesus isn't trying to whack the snot out of you. Just change the whatever—the acting out—indulging the dopey guy who's one goal in life was to get pie-faced. Nurture the new-inner you. The spirit gets hungry, you know? *Dig out that Bible your Nana gave you for graduation. You lost it? Man, you're makin' my point... how much you need this.* Okay, download a free copy; ESV is good. NIV, NAS, NLT, the Message... most any will do. Even the

ol' King James. Thou shall feel a need, a need to read. Start (the Gospel of John is a good place). Test drive the paraphrased version of the gospel on this website. It's called "*Jesus Laughed.*" The Gospel Dude wrote it as a quick overview of the basic story.

Doesn't Seem So Weird

Think of yourself in pieces; body, soul and spirit. What you learn reading the stories and teachings; the episodes of Jesus' life—all recorded in history by eyewitnesses—inspires the spirit. Read awhile and you start thinkin', *Yeah, I kinda get it.* Next verse, you're like, *Wow, heavy.* Suddenly the guy you used to avoid in the breakroom at work, or in study hall, or the neighbor who volunteers at the rescue mission who invited you to church... well, he doesn't seem so weird anymore.

Check out his church or Bible club at school, some place where people get together and give God his props. Somebody sings, somebody talks, somebody prays. If you've never gone, it might be a bit of a culture shock. *Relate to it from the heart. Connect to the vibe of it.*

Okay, you tried it, you liked it, you want to go back... then the glad handers tell you about the laughs and decent bud they had. Sort of pulls you back, huh? You want to be cool, but the tradeoff is gonna hurt somebody who loves you—Jesus.

Choices and voices. Who you gonna listen to? The old gang wants to get basted Friday night and the Christian dude asked you to help mow an old lady's lawn Saturday morning. Well, do you want to move forward, hang with Jesus, or go back where you were? As if you really miss those hangover headaches. If you answer yes, check the mirror, ask yerself, **“Who’s really cool?”**

Look, you prayed for a reason. You felt something was missing, that the world was a plastic place. ***Good job. Some cats never get it. Some just don’t want to.*** You heard God and listened. So what next? You have a bigger purpose in life now. Let the heart glow grow. Go with that.

Read the **“Compass”** tab next. It has a few additional tips moving forward.