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Abraham Lincoln

The Leader
... Who Stood In The Gap
Between the North & South!

16th U.S. PRESIDENT (1861-1865)

Begin to Build a Love Relationship With God:

- 1. Every day let God talk to you thru the Bible:** *"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."* II Peter 3:18 *"Desire... the Word"* I Peter 2:2
- 2. Pray:** asking God's help about problems, needs, stress, direction, relations, doubts, thankfulness...etc. *"Casting all your care upon Him for He cares for you."* I Peter 5:7
- 3. Daily confess known sins to God:** You can't lose eternal life, but **sin** will break your fellowship with God. *"If we confess our sins He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us"* I John 1:9 Fellowship **is** restored!
- 4. Share the good news of God's love in Jesus with others:** *"Love... as I have loved you."* John 13:34

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Abe Lincoln was born in 1809 in a log cabin in Kentucky and ascended to the highest position in the United States when elected President in 1860!

FROM POVERTY TO PRESIDENT!

He thus proved the American system: *"All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator [Not evolutionary theories] with certain inalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty (which comes from God's righteousness) and the pursuit of Happiness."* Declaration of Independence 1775

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8. MERCY FROM GOD! "Received Him" Jn 1:12

Lincoln went from acknowledging God **in his mind** to receiving God: Jesus Christ **in his heart!**

Chiniquy, Lincoln's close friend, reveals in his book that Lincoln received Jesus as his Savior while overlooking the graves at Gettysburg on Nov. 19, 1863.



JESUS STOOD IN OUR GAP...

...AND DIED FOR OUR SINS SO THAT HE COULD SAVE US!

HELL
PSALM 9:17

Rev. 1:5

HEAVEN

Unto Him that loved us. JOHN 17:3, 18-26

12 JESUS's RESULTS: All Sins Forgiven, Eternal Life Offered, Union With God Forever!

1. MOTIVATED BY RIGHTEOUSNESS!

Be sure you're right, then go ahead!
With that belief, Lincoln went forward!



In Springfield, Illinois on June 16, 1858, Abe Lincoln said:

"A house divided against itself cannot stand. I believe this government cannot endure permanently half slave & half free."

Jan. 1864, Letter to James S. Wadsworth

"The restoration of the Rebel States to the Union must rest upon the principle of civil and political equality of both races; and it must be sealed by general amnesty."

Matthew 12:22-37

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6. MALIGNED BUT FOCUSED!

Amidst great adversity, Lincoln stayed focused by keeping his purpose in view!

"I expect to maintain this contest until successful, or till I die, or am conquered, or my term expires, or Congress or the country forsakes me."

June 28, 1862 Letter to William H. Seward

"Adhere to your purpose [unity] ...if you falter, and give up, you will lose the power of keeping any resolution, and will regret it all your life." June 28, 1862 Letter to Quintin Campbell



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3. MEANINGFUL RESOLVE!

Lincoln tried for a peaceful settlement without compromising his goal of unity!

"In your hands, my dissatisfied fellow countrymen, and not in mine, is the momentous issue of civil war. The

government will not assail you.


You can have no conflict, without being yourselves the aggressors. ... We are not enemies, but friends."

FIRST INAUGURAL ADDRESS
March 4, 1861



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The Civil War Was Fought Over State's Rights And They Needed A Leader To Restore National Unity!

 The battle started when the South focused on **their personal rights (being selfish)** which when violated, produced bitterness that brought forth oppression that lead to rebellion and destruction for all! ... **But Lincoln focused on his responsibilities (doing what is right)** that produced leadership which fulfilled righteousness by leading them toward unity, peace, and freedom for all!

A TRUE LEADER: "...is a servant of Higher Authority who carries out his responsibilities and instruct others in the way."


A GAP RESULTS "...between two opposing sides who won't seek a solution to resolve the problem." 

RESPONSIBILITY OCCURS "...when we properly respond by carrying out our assigned duties." Rom. 5:1-21


5. **Stay away from evil:** Avoid evil people for friends, bad books and wrong thoughts. *"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners."* I Corinthians 15:33
6. **Join a Bible believing Church:** Be faithful in attending, and serve the Lord with gladness. *"The Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved"* Acts 2:47
7. **Give to the support of the Lord's work:** Give your time, talent, and money in love to God's work. *"Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name"* Psalm 29:2
8. **Do NOT be discouraged:** Temptations, disappointments, and persecution will come. Trust in Jesus who says, *"I will never leave you, nor forsake you."* Hebrews 13:5

THE GAP: RIGHTS VS. RIGHTEOUSNESS!!

The plan to separate the states was conceived around 1840 and carried out in 1860-1861.



The southern states wanted to **keep slavery as a personal right** of owning "property" and sought States' rights to secede from the Union to keep them!



The northern states wanted to **keep the peace by keeping slavery out of new states** and yet allowing the other states to continue their way of living.


To keep the unity of the nation, Abraham Lincoln had to lead the way. He stood in the gap with 8 principles:

LIKE ABE LINCOLN, YOU CAN BE SAVED ALSO!

What To Pray: Romans 10:9-13

*"Dear God, I know that **Jesus paid the penalty for my sins with His blood** on the cross and **forgave all my sins when He rose from the dead!** I NOW receive Jesus as my Savior. Thank you for saving me from my sin and giving to me the gift of eternal life! Amen."*

Sign: _____
 Your Witness: **Jesus Christ (Rev 1:5)**
 Today's Date: _____



"He that believes on Me has everlasting life." 13



2. MAGNIFY YOUR PRIORITIES!

Priorities determine direction! Lincoln chose the unity of the States foremost!

"I would save the Union." Aug 22, 1862 Letter to Horace Greeley

"As I would not be a slave, so I would not be a master. This expresses my idea of democracy. Whatever differs from this, to the extent of the difference, is no democracy." August 1, 1858 FAREWELL ADDRESS IN SPRINGFIELD, IL


"I now leave... with a task before me greater than that which rested on [George] Washington. Without the assistance of the Divine Being who ever attended him, I cannot succeed. With that assistance, I cannot fail." February 11, 1861





7. MISSION PERSEVERANCE WINS!

Lincoln stood in the gap and lead them to victory!

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds..."


 SECOND INAUGURAL ADDRESS
March 4, 1865



LINCOLN'S LEADERSHIP RESULTS:
 April 9, 1865 North wins the civil war: **unity restored!**
 April 14, 1865 Lincoln Assassinated: **but peace achieved!**
 Dec. 6, 1865 13th Amendment passed: **freedom for slaves!**


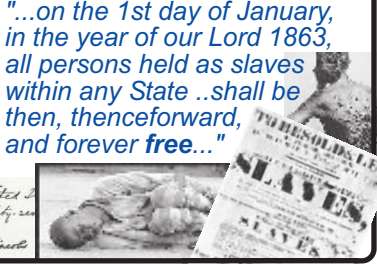
"Blessed are the peacemakers" Matthew 5:9 11

4. MESSAGE OF ACHIEVEMENT

Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation guided their actions to its success! **ON THE LIBERTY BELL:** 

"Proclaim liberty throughout all the land" Leviticus 25:10

"...on the 1st day of January, in the year of our Lord 1863, all persons held as slaves within any State ..shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free..."

5. MEMORIAL DEDICATION!

Lincoln reminds them of the principles of freedom!

"Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this continent, a new nation, conceived in Liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal.... We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom." Nov. 19, 1863 Dedication of the National Cemetery at Gettysburg

