

# LOOK IT UP!

## A Devotion and Family History Lesson

By Gerald Cumby



**My dad, his parents and siblings were really weird characters to some people's thinking. Let me explain this statement with as much clarity as possible. Most people living in my dad's era (growing up years) did not comprehend my dad's and some of his family members' means of understanding the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence of man; as well as their theory that was supposed to act as the guiding principle for understanding the world and all that is in it.**

**Questions and answers from my dad would leave many people scratching their heads as to what he meant about life and whether his answers about life in general were true, seriously flawed, embellished to the core, or half-truth (just enough truth to get the point across). Sometimes, even his failure to not answering or asking questions were leaving people shaking their heads as to his general "common knowledge" of events surrounding his and our world.**

**Dad's family understood each other. They grew up together with very few years between each of five children. Let me tell you what I mean and how it has affected me in my early, mid, and late years of my life listening to my dad and his family. They put a new rule on learning and questioning one's intellect.**

**I think I must let you, the reader, know...my dad's method of telling stories and experiences in his life were very detailed, believable...to**

**"somewhat believable." These stories, experiences, and answers to life's problems would leave one asking him, "Are you sure you are not 'stretching the truth' or a little 'overboard' in explaining the details of his experiences in life.**

**When I would ask him, "Was that story really true?" He would say, "JUST LOOK IT UP! You will understand where I am coming from!"**

**Today we have a computer to look up questionable stories or theories of life. We can usually find out about historical places and events in just a short time. We have the iPhone as well as the computer to verify stories and vet people as to their stories and historical events as to being factual, partly factual, or just a "plain old lie."**

**Back in my younger days, however, I and others had encyclopedias to look up events and history as to being factual. As I did what my dad told me to do, "JUST LOOK IT UP" became a frequent event and experience in my life. Without going into detail, I want you to know that my knowledge and education of the world in general and the normal events taking place in it greatly increased as I "JUST LOOKED IT UP" as to finding out about those questionable stories and experiences of my dad, his siblings, and his dad's perceptive and exciting life.**

**Looking things up in the encyclopedia and listening to the stories around the breakfast, lunch and dinner table greatly enhanced my knowledge of the world in general. I found myself reading more, exploring unknown territories in my finite mind, and gaining valuable insights into the history of our country, city, my family, and the world. Finding out whether my dad's stories were true were a lot less important as I went from doubting about those experiences to seeing what he meant when he said, "JUST LOOK IT UP." My world had been enhanced and enlightened as I read about electricity, tree cutting, the difference of pulling and picking cotton, rattle snakes, outdoor toilets, the first indoor toilet with a flushing mechanism that was absolutely fascinating...and all the**

important things of life. Getting to know "the facts of life" had very little to do with the "sexuality" phase of my life. By "looking it up", I was learning about "the big old world out there!"

My dad and mom were not scholars and philosophers as the world would think some to be. They were, however, filled with common sense and genuine goodness as they made their mark in the world in which they lived. They built bridges whereby others could cross and get to the other side of a problem. They were geniuses of the "common sense" world.

The "Just Look It Up" philosophy is should be called "law of observation and learning that leads to understanding and action." It has been said that knowledge is the collection of facts and information, while wisdom is the ability to apply and judge them in life. I would think that the "JUST LOOK IT UP" philosophy should be considered a bridge or a gateway to knowledge, wisdom, and common sense.

Whether it is knowledge, wisdom, or practical application of both, it can involve the physical and spiritual sides of our being. A "Just Look It Up" philosophy should be a catalyst or an initiative in helping the general public to sustain a higher goal for living.

As to the physical side, the "JUST LOOK IT UP" initiative should help in understanding what has been invented and/or designed over the years have improved our understanding of the human body, how it functions, and how we can prevent and/or decrease the pain in our bodies with medications and other discoveries in the medical field. "Just looking it up" on the computer and reading about the many ways to manufacture, travel, etc. has fulfilled the prophecy in the Word of God...that knowledge will increase until a certain time of the end. Daniel 12:4, "But you, Daniel, roll up and seal the words of the scroll until the time of the end. Many will go here and there to increase knowledge."

Biblically and spiritually, it is important to do as my dad told me to do...JUST LOOK IT UP!

For instance: When one asks, "How do I get to heaven to be with God?"...I can "look it up" in the Word of God.

**So...I looked it up and here is what I found!**

- **Isaiah 45:22, KJV, "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else."**
- **Luke 19:10, "For the Son of Man [Jesus] came to seek and to save what was lost."**
- **John 1:12, "Yet to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God."**
- **John 3:16, KJV, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."**
- **John 3:36, "Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on him."**
- **John 6:40, "For my Father's will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day."**
- **Acts 2:21, "And everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."**
- **Acts 4:10,12, "...It is by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth... [12] Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."**
- **Acts 15:11, "...We believe it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved..."**
- **Acts 16:30-31, "..."Sirs, what must I do to be saved?" They replied, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved..."**
- **Romans 6:23, KJV, "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."**
- **Romans 10:9, "...if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."**
- **Romans 10:13, KJV, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."**
- **1 Corinthians 1:18, KJV, "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God."**
- **1 Corinthians 15:2-4, "By this gospel you are saved ... [specifically] that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day..."**

- 2 Corinthians 7:10, "Godly sorrow brings repentance that leads to salvation..."
- Luke 13:3, "...unless you repent, you too will all perish."
- Acts 3:19, KJV, "Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord."
- Ephesians 1:7, "In [Jesus] we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins..."
- Ephesians 2:8-9, KJV, "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast."
- 2 Timothy 3:15, "...from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."

***I love John 11:25-26...I looked it up and learned the way to live forever.***

***Here it is:***

***Jesus said to her (Martha), "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. 26 And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?"***

***I want all of you to know...I BELIEVE THIS!***

***I "JUST LOOKED IT UP" AND TOOK HEED.***

***1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, "Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After***

*that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words."*

With those encouraging words from the Word, I can't help but say:

**"LOOK UP WHEN THE TIME COMES  
FOR US TO GO HOME."**

**I KNOW ALL THIS TO BE TRUE BECAUSE I HAVE  
"LOOKED IT UP!"  
IT'S TRUE...IT'S TRUE!**

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