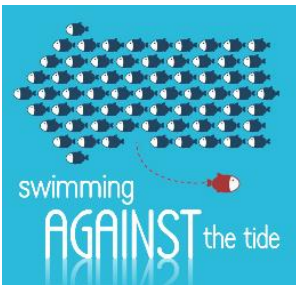


# Swimming Against the Tide

## Crazy People – Part 3

by Casting Crowns



*Who builds a boat with no clouds in sight?  
Who walks up to a giant and picks a fight?  
Who turns a lion's den into a petting zoo?  
Who can have church in a fiery furnace?*

*I'll tell you who...  
Crazy people trust in Jesus*

(2 Kings 18:1–7) In the third year of Hoshea son of Elah king of Israel, Hezekiah son of Ahaz king of Judah began to reign. {2} He was twenty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-nine years. His mother's name was Abijah daughter of Zechariah. {3} He did what was right in the eyes of the LORD, just as his father David had done. {4} He removed the high places, smashed the sacred stones and cut down the Asherah poles. He broke into pieces the bronze snake Moses had made, for up to that time the Israelites had been burning incense to it. (It was called Nehushtan.) {5} Hezekiah trusted in the LORD, the God of Israel. There was no one like him among all the kings of Judah, either before him or after him. {6} He held fast to the LORD and did not cease to follow him; he kept the commands the LORD had given Moses. {7} And the LORD was with him; he was successful in whatever he undertook. He rebelled against the king of Assyria and did not serve him.

(Isaiah 50:10–11) Who among you fears the LORD and obeys the word of his servant? Let him who walks in the dark, who has no light, trust in the name of the LORD and rely on his God. {11} But now, all you who light fires and provide yourselves with flaming torches, go, walk in the light of your fires and of the torches you have set ablaze. This is what you shall receive from my hand: You will lie down in torment.

(Isaiah 12:2–3) Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The LORD, the LORD, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation." {3} With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

(Romans 15:13) May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### *Following Him wherever He leads us*

(Matthew 16:24–25) Then Jesus said to his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. {25} For whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for me will find it.

(Ephesians 5:1–2) Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children {2} and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

### *Kingdom seekers,*

(Matthew 6:33) But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

(Romans 14:17) For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit,

(Matthew 13:44) "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

## *walk-by-faith believers*

(2 Corinthians 5:7) We live by faith, not by sight.

(Hebrews 11:3) By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible.

(Galatians 2:20) I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

## *Here's the church, here's the steeple Here's to all God's crazy people*

### *Who brings a Bible into a public school?*

(Matthew 5:14–16) “You are the light of the world. A city on a hill cannot be hidden. {15} Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house. {16} In the same way, let your light shine before men, that they may see your good deeds and praise your Father in heaven.

(Isaiah 60:1–4) “Arise, shine, for your light has come, and the glory of the LORD rises upon you. {2} See, darkness covers the earth and thick darkness is over the peoples, but the LORD rises upon you and his glory appears over you. {3} Nations will come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn. {4} “Lift up your eyes and look about you: All assemble and come to you; your sons come from afar, and your daughters are carried on the arm.

### *Who shares a gospel even when the world calls them a fool?*

(2 Thessalonians 1:3–5) We ought always to thank God for you, brothers, and rightly so, because your faith is growing more and more, and the love every one of you has for each other is increasing. {4} Therefore, among God's churches we boast about your perseverance and faith in all the persecutions and trials you are enduring. {5} All this is evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering.

(2 Corinthians 12:10) That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

### *And who's not afraid to go against the flow?*

(Matthew 7:13–14) “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. {14} But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

(Romans 12:2) Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

### *Well, cancel me and call me one of those*

### *Who sees the world as a mission field?*

(Mark 16:15) He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the good news to all creation.

(Acts 1:8) But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”

(Matthew 28:19–20) Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, {20} and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

### *Who talks to Jesus like He's real?*

(Hebrews 4:16) Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

(1 Thessalonians 5:16–18) Be joyful always; {17} pray continually; {18} give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

(Ephesians 6:18) And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

(Philippians 4:6–7) Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. {7} And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### *Who believes the words in red?*

(Ephesians 6:17) Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

(2 Timothy 3:14–17) But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, {15} and how from infancy you have known the holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. {16} All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, {17} so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

(Hebrews 4:12) For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

(1 Thessalonians 2:13) And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is at work in you who believe.

### *Who says He's coming back again?*

(1 Thessalonians 4:16–17) 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.

(1 Corinthians 15:51–52) Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— {52} in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

(John 14:1–3) “Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. {2} In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. {3} And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.