

## MY BURDEN HAS BEEN LIFTED

by CHARLIE JONES

**GENRE:** Comedy

**SYNOPSIS:** To demonstrate how Christians sometimes pile burdens on new Christians.

**DIRECTOR'S TIP:** This script can be performed with as few as two actors and as many as eight. If you're short on actors, use one person as Joe Christian, and one person as all the other characters. If you use one actor playing multiple parts, distinguish the characters with a simple prop like a hat or a scarf (in addition to the props the character hands to Joe). Keep these changes simple so you can maintain the momentum of the sketch. These characters are all exaggerations, so don't be afraid to take it over the top. If your denomination has a particular book of church doctrine, feel free to substitute its title in Elvis Presbyter's lines where he refers to The Official Book of Church Doctrine.

**TIME:** Over 5 minutes

**CAST BREAKDOWN:** 8

**TOPIC:** Christian Living, Faith

**SCRIPTURE REFERENCE:** Galatians 6:2, Luke 18:9-18

**CHURCH YEAR SEASON:** Any

**CHARACTERS:** Joe Christian ~ A new Christian; male or female  
Radio Ruth ~ A Christian focused on "quiet time"; male or female  
Happy Hank ~ A Christian focused on smiling; male or female; a friendly nerd  
Kate Karisma ~ A Christian focused on speaking in tongues; male or female  
Elvis Presbyter ~ A Christian focused on study; male or female  
Organized Ann ~ A Christian focused on organization and authority; male or female  
Pharisee ~ A pompous Christian (See Mark 12:38-40); male or female  
Publican ~ A penitent sinner; male or female

**PROPS:** A clock radio, Living Bible, Book and cassette tape on speaking in tongues, A giant Bible – dust jacket should read: New International Version with Greek and Hebrew Subtitles, A large book of church doctrine, Three giant notebooks – covers should read: Gill Bothard's Conflicting Institutes, volumes 1, 2 and 3

**COSTUMES:** Contemporary clothing, appropriate to character

**SOUND:** Two to eight wireless mics, depending on casting

**LIGHTING:** General stage

**SETTING:** Bare stage

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## MY BURDEN HAS BEEN LIFTED *by Charlie Jones*

**PHARISEE:** Dear Lord, I thank you that I am not like other men (*pointing to JOE CHRISTIAN*) who say they love you but do so little in return for all you've done for them. I thank you that I've been teaching that Sunday school class for seven years in a row. I tithe 20 percent—I said 20 percent—of my income to the church. And I witness to five people—I said five people—a week. Furthermore, Lord, whenever those church doors are open, I'm right there. And remember last Christmas when we were delivering those food baskets, I was the only one left ... (*He turns his back to the audience, his voice trails off, and he EXITS.*)

**JOE CHRISTIAN:** Oh, God! Be merciful to me a sinner! Lord Jesus, forgive my sins. I thank you for your grace and righteousness. (*Stands slowly as the realization slowly comes over him*) Praise God! I'm a Christian and my burden has been lifted!

**RADIO RUTH:** (*ENTERING, very smoothly*) Did I hear you say you're a Christian?

**JOE CHRISTIAN:** Yes. I know Jesus is my Savior, and my burden has been lifted!

**RADIO RUTH:** Well, I used to think all I had to do was soak in all that grace, love and forgiveness from God and then just go about my merry way. But then I realized that if I was really a Christian, I would show God how dedicated I am. That's why I get up at 5:30 every morning to have my ... quiet time.

**JOE CHRISTIAN:** Quiet time? Oooh. I can't get up that early!

**RADIO RUTH:** You want to be a Christian, don't you?

**JOE CHRISTIAN:** Yeah!

**RADIO RUTH:** Well, I think I've got something that will help you. (*Handing him a large clock radio*) Here is a Christian clock radio. You can use it to get you started. It's preset on a Christian station, WGOD. You can fall asleep to Dixieland Gospel and wake up to the preaching of Swin Chuckdol. Once you do this, you'll really be a Christian. (*EXITS*)

**JOE CHRISTIAN:** (*Looking at radio*) Wow! WGOD! Praise God! I'm a Christian and my burden has been lifted!

**HAPPY HANK:** (*ENTERING*) Hey! Hi! Howdy! (*He tries to get JOE'S attention; JOE tries to ignore HANK.*) Hey! Hi! Oh, I see you carry a WGOD Christian clock radio. You must think you're a Christian.

**JOE CHRISTIAN:** I am a Christian and my burden has been lifted.

**HAPPY HANK:** Well, let me ask you this. Let me ask you this: What have you been doing for Christ?