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Making A Difference

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Beloved King Ministries

QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

A NON-DENOMINATIONAL CHRISTIAN INTERNET MINISTRY
DEDICATED TO PROMOTING BIBLICAL TRUTHS NOT TAUGHT BY MAINSTREAM RELIGION

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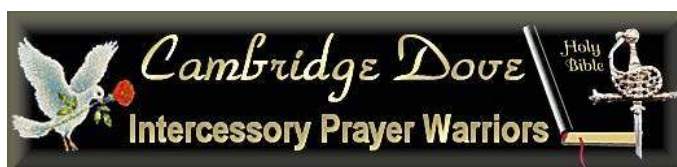
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"The sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared w/the glory which shall be revealed in us"

Romans 8:18

Greetings and God's blessings to you all

If you are reading your very first "Making a Difference" I extend a special welcome to you and hope that you are uplifted by the inspirational contributions sent from all around the world for us to share. And if you have been a member of the Beloved King Ministries' flock for some time, whether you are a regular correspondent or a passive reader who has enjoyed receiving our magazine each month I want you to know that you are prayed for every single day. I love every single one of you and praise God for you.

I want to take this opportunity to express my personal thanks to **all** the Spirit-filled folk who have taken the time and effort to share items with us and especially to those dear people who have given of their personal harvest to help this ministry financially. If YOU have something that you believe is worth sharing, please take a moment to send it to us.

I pray that God will abundantly bless you as we begin another new year, that your prayers and petitions to Him will be heard and that you and those most dear to you will experience the touch of the Holy Spirit as never before. Where understanding has been difficult, I pray that the clouds of darkness will be lifted and that the full light of Jesus will shine through so that His truth shall prevail in wonderful new ways.

I pray especially for those of you who are sick or infirm or distressed. May the Lord's compassion uplift you to new heights because, by His stripes, you HAVE BEEN healed. In the name of Jesus, I banish Satan and his lying servants, masquerading as angels of righteousness, from the lives of everyone who reads this magazine.

David R Holt

IMPORTANT REQUEST TO ALL READERS

If you change servers, PLEASE let us know your new address so that you can continue to receive "Making A Difference" without interruption. If possible please send the change of address from your OLD address because, if I happen to miss it, Mailbox Filter will reject it if you send it from your new one.

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be sent either in full or as an MS Word attachment by Bcc email. Thus, if anyone has a **"Spam detector" that automatically rejects bulk mail, it will not download.**

If anyone who doesn't regularly clear their mail has a full box, then they simply won't get "Making A Difference" for that issue. In such cases, it will NOT be re-sent unless specifically requested by email (After all, people DO go on holidays and business trips and their box can get full whilst they're away. We don't intend or want those people to miss out.). So, if you miss a copy, just let us know and it will be gladly sent to you.

Of course, all past editions of Making A Difference are on the Beloved King Ministries' web site too. Just click [HERE](#) and then, when the home page opens, click the "Making A Difference" button fifth from the top on the left of your screen. Then click the editions you want to see.

*Don't go around saying the world owes you a living.
The world owes you nothing. It was here first.
Mark Twain*

DISCLAIMER

Often, contributions express individuals' personal thoughts and readers are reminded that opinions and

ideas expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of Beloved King Ministries or the editor.

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THE PROPHECY CODE

BIBLE PROPHECY SEMINAR


Opening Night
PROPHECY'S FINAL COUNTDOWN

Second Night
REVELATION'S RAPTURE

Third Night
THE DRAGON'S EGG

A continuing series of presentations

AMAZING FACTS



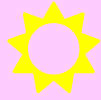
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INTERNATIONAL
EVANGELIST
and
PROPHECY EXPERT

Well, it's not too late!

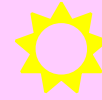
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See the Mailbox section of this issue to see what one reader wrote after watching The Prophecy Code.



EDITORIAL



“Ask and it shall be given unto you.”

So spake Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount. Why then, when Christians pray to God for whatever they consider they need, don't they always get it? Well, Scripture does provide one answer. It is found in James 4:2-4: *You want something but don't get it. You kill and covet, but you cannot have what you want. You quarrel and fight. You do not have, because you do not ask God. When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures. You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Could this possibly ever fit you? You see, what WE think we “need” may not truly be what we DO need. There's a huge difference between wanting and needing and what most of us actually tend to concentrate on is what we want. So, first of all, we must understand that, whilst He ALWAYS answers the sincere prayers of true believers, sometimes God's answer is “No.” Whilst you may think that you need a new car, God may know that, if you got one, it might just take HIS place as your first love. Instead of spending your Sabbaths praising and worshiping God, you might decide that road burning in your new “toy” is more fun. And, since God knows the end – including the **possible** end – from the beginning, He may decline your request because He knows what is best for you much better than you do!*

But even before we come to that point, there is something else that God has told us through His inspired Word. It is found in Proverbs 28:9 where we are told, *“He that turneth his ear away from hearing the Law, even his prayer shall be abomination.”* Whilst not often quoted in churches (I wonder why??), this verse is one of the most vital in all of Scripture when it comes to enjoying God's richest blessings. As is always the case with Scripture, the wording is accurate and precise. It *doesn't* say that the prayers of he who **breaks** the Law are an abomination and there's a very good reason for that. That reason is found in Romans 3:23 where we are told that ALL have sinned and fallen short of God's glory. As I have shown in the past, the only categorical definition of the word “sin” is in 1 John 3:4 where we are told that sin is the transgression of the Law. So, if we have all sinned, we have all transgressed (broken) the Law of God. So where Proverbs 28:9 speaks about turning one's ear away from **hearing** the Law there's a huge difference. If you break the Law in ignorance God is not going to ignore your prayers asking for greater wisdom and understanding is He? In fact, I would go so far as to say that such prayers are a delight and a thrill to God. Jesus said, *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”* (Matthew 5:6). That's why He admonished His followers to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness and **then** all their other needs will be provided (Matthew 6:33). From all this you can see that it isn't just breaking the Law that hurts God, it is **wilfully** breaking it after you have learned it.

Now Jesus told His listeners that God knows their needs even before they ask Him (Matthew 6:8) so why pray at all? Praying means *asking* and is just one of several ways that we have of speaking to God. Others are praising – where we simply express our adoration for our Creator and Saviour and thanksgiving – where we express our gratitude for blessings already received. Praying is not for God's benefit – as Jesus said, He already knows our needs – it is for **our** benefit. When we verbally express our desires to God that shows HIM where our hearts lie. What do we ask for? If a person constantly ask God for material things that's a clear indication of what's most important to that person and so he's going to get a lot of “No” answers. But, if a person asks God for wisdom and a job to do that will further the spreading of the Gospel, don't you think God will be delighted to answer such a prayer? If you aren't already familiar with the story, pause now and read about Solomon's prayer in 1 Kings 3:4-14. Consider Solomon's motives in light of what James wrote (quoted at the beginning of this editorial) and see how God gave him much **more** than he asked for.

About 960 years before Jesus walked this earth there was a man named Jabez. Have you ever heard of him? If your answer is “No” then I'm not at all surprised. Jabez is mentioned very briefly in amongst a whole long and boring section of Scripture that lists the genealogy of the Houses of Israel all the way from Adam and Eve to Zerubbabel who rebuilt Solomon's temple after the Israelites' return from Babylonian captivity. However, Jabez' mention is more than most of the others listed – considerably more. Whilst most of the several hundred people referred to are simply that – referred to – “These were the sons of...” followed by a list of names – this is what the Bible tells us about Jabez in 1 Chronicles 4:9, 10:

“Jabez was more honourable than his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez, saying, ‘I gave birth to him in pain.’” (Jabez sounds like the Hebrew word for pain) *“Jabez cried out to the God of Israel, ‘Oh, that you would bless me and enlarge my territory! Let your hand be with me, and keep me from harm so that I will be free from pain.’ And God granted his request.”* End of story! Or is it?

Firstly, we are told that Jabez was more honourable than his contemporaries (referred to here as “his brothers” as was the custom in Israel). What does that mean? “Honourable” in ancient Israel meant that a person was as loyal as he could possibly be to God. He didn't lie or steal or kill. He didn't covet his neighbours' property and he kept the Sabbath in its true spirit. Basically, he was as faultless as a human could be. He kept all the commandments. That doesn't mean he never sinned though. The point is, when he did, he was truly repentant and asked God for

forgiveness and made the proper sacrifice to atone for his error. Being “more honourable” in this context meant that Jabez did NOT turn his ear away from hearing the Law. That is why his prayer was granted.

But there’s more to the story than that. You will notice that Jabez was quite specific in his request to God. He didn’t simply ask God to bless him – period. He told God HOW he wanted to be blessed. How often do you do that? When you pray, do you simply ask God to bless you and leave it to Him to determine what form that blessing will take? In fact, do you ask God to bless YOU at all – or do you ask Him to bless everyone else in your life and completely forget yourself? At this point you may be feeling a little self-conscious about asking for personal blessings and that is, unfortunately, a sign of our modern times to some extent. It is considered selfish to ask for anything for yourself. We tend to think that, if we only ask blessings for others, God will reward our selflessness and bless us as He sees fit anyway. This, I believe, is wrong thinking. Remember Jesus’ first word of those that form the title of this editorial? **ASK!** There’s a modern secular expression that says, “If you don’t ask, you don’t get!” but I would like to suggest that expression is as Biblical as it is secular.

If we simply pray, “Bless me please Lord,” when you think about it, God’s answer would probably be, “I do my child!” If you are able to get out of bed tomorrow that’s a blessing! If you are able to read your Bible that’s a blessing! Every day is laden with blessings – most of which we take for granted! You see, God WANTS His children to enjoy His richest blessings. Yes, He is able to bless us MORE than we ask – see Ephesians 3:20 – but we *still* have to ask. Philippians 4:19 tells us that “God will meet ALL our needs according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.” But we *still* need to ask and we need to ask **specifically!** That’s what Solomon did and that’s what Jabez did.

When Jabez asked God to enlarge his territory he wasn’t just asking for more real estate! Remember, he was an honourable man so that, by enlarging his territory, God was also enlarging his sphere of influence and enabling him to reach more people for Him. It was *because* He knew this, that God granted Jabez’ prayer. But Jabez wasn’t finished with simply asking God for more territory. He knew that, without God’s guidance, he ran a big risk of failure so he also asked God to keep His hand upon him and keep evil away from him so that he would be free from pain. I suspect that the pain Jabez was referring to there was the pain of failure.

Satan hates anyone who is obedient to God’s Law and will do anything he possibly can to divert him or her from teaching the truth to others. He doesn’t want them to know the truth because, as Jesus said in John 8:31, 32, “If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.” Free of what? You may ask. Free of any lasting effect of Satan’s attacks is what. That’s why Jesus’ brother James referred to the Law as “the perfect Law that gives freedom” (James 1:25). Oh yes! Satan WILL certainly take a lot more interest in you if you are, like Jabez, more honorable than your brethren but, if you have prayed Jabez’ prayer for protection from him, his attacks will come to nothing – or, if they DO appear to have an impact on you, it is only temporary and allowed by God to test your faith. That was the case with Job. No matter what Satan did to Job, he remained loyal to God and his loyalty was finally rewarded. When you are in complete obedience to God’s precepts and have asked Him for his protection, Satan can only do what God allows him to do to you. That’s how it was with Job and you will be no different if you are “honorable.”

God knows how far He can let Satan go. He has promised that “No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful, He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

When He was speaking about His return to earth to redeem the faithful, Jesus warned the people about the final onslaught that Satan will unleash upon humanity and said, “There will be great distress, unequaled from the beginning of the world until now – and never to be equaled again. If those days had not been cut short, no one would survive, but for the sake of the elect, those days will be shortened. At that time if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or, ‘There He is!’ do not believe it. For false Christs and false prophets will appear and perform great signs and miracles to deceive even the elect – if that were possible. See, I have told you ahead of time.” (Matthew 24:21-24). If you are “honorable” and doing your very best to obey God, you ARE among what Jesus described as “the elect” – your name is written in the Book of Life and a place is being prepared for you in Christ’s kingdom. He said, “In my Father’s house are many mansions: if not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, ye may be also.” (John 14:2, 3).

So, my beloved brothers and sisters, how could God help YOU to enlarge your territory for Him? How about, for example, just asking God to bring just ONE new person who is seeking the truth into your life every day and give you the words to speak to that person? Just imagine it! In just one week you would have had the opportunity to bring seven lost sheep into Jesus’ fold. Wow!! Doesn’t that thought thrill you? I’ll tell you something – it sure thrills God! But when you ask that, remember to also ask God to keep HIS hand upon you and place His “circle of protection” around you so that, no matter how they may try, Satan and his servants (often masquerading as angels of light - see 2 Corinthians 11:13-15) will not be able to deter you from your mission. They may put stumbling blocks in your way but, as I have illustrated, God knows exactly how far to let them go before He stops them in their tracks. Resist the devil in the name of Jesus Christ and he WILL flee from you! He HATES that name!

Then, next week, why not ask God to DOUBLE your territory? Is there a limit? Certainly not with God! He knows your potential a lot better than you do and He rejoices when we succeed for Him. All of heaven rejoices and a crown of glory is laid up for you that no one can destroy!

And it all starts with **ASKING!** Hallelujah!

DRH

STOP PRESS: Please see the FOOTNOTE to this editorial on page 11 of this magazine.

Food For Thought

WHY SO MUCH SUFFERING?

Shared by Kevin Brown

Why do bad things happen to good people? Why do we so often see good, innocent men, women and children of all ages suffer horrific injuries, diseases and agonising deaths? Why is it that we often see decent, clean living people afflicted with all sorts of tragedies and unfortunate events? And even worse, the guilty seem to get off Scott free. All too often there are many things in life that come along for which we simply do not have answers.

If God is a God of love why does he allow so much suffering to take place? How many times have you heard that question? Are there any answers to this often asked and perplexing issue? Do we understand these issues correctly? Could there be something we have missed? Forget the do-gooders. Seriously, I'm talking about logical, sensible, realistic answers: Practical answers, real answers. Does the Bible offer any answers, I mean logical, sensible, realistic answers?

God gave "**dominion**" of this planet to Adam and Eve after creation. "Then God blessed them, and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have "**dominion**" over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth"; Genesis 1:28.

Then something went horribly wrong. When Adam and Eve sinned they forfeited, or gave up that "dominion" to Satan or the devil, and his agents. But, God so loved the human race He paid the ransom Himself to "purchase" it back by sending Jesus Christ to pay mankind's penalty and die on man's behalf. "God so loved the world that He gave his only beloved Son that whosoever might believe in Him should not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16.

Chapter seven of the book of Daniel in the Bible offers some interesting insights. It starts talking about an earthly King and an earthly Kingdom. "In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon..." Daniel 7:1. It ends by talking about a heavenly King and a heavenly Kingdom. "Then, the kingdom and "**dominion**", and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people, the saints of the Most High. His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom"; Daniel 7:27. It offers an explanation as to the transition from one kingdom to the other by explaining that "**dominion**" is re-claimed by Jesus Christ upon His death.

Eventually, it is given back to the people by delivering a judgment in their favour. "...the Ancient of days came, and a judgment was made in favour of the saints of the Most High, and the time came for the saints to possess the kingdom", Daniel 7:22. Jesus Christ made a very interesting statement, "I will no longer talk much with you, for the ruler of this world is coming and he has nothing in Me"; John 14:30.

I suggest "**dominion**" does not actually pass back to God until the second Coming of Jesus, when, "...the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel...and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air"; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17.

If "**dominion**" has not yet actually passed back to God, then how can He be held responsible for all the pain and suffering we see? I suggest it is in fact the enemy, Satan or the devil as he is sometimes called, who is responsible, because "**dominion**" (whatever that means) is still in his control. Three times Jesus referred to Satan as "The prince of this world." (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11). Could it be that the cruel blows we see some times are actually caused by Satan, or the devil? As the human race more openly disobeys God and follows the way of Satan or the devil they thus render themselves to his "dominion" and rulership. Does it not make sense then that those who choose to accept God's ways and obey Him are going to be especially targeted and attacked by Satan, until such time as "**dominion**" actually passes back to God?

Jesus Christ Himself said, "Most assuredly, I say unto you, he who hears my word and believes in Him who sent me has everlasting life, shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life" (John 5:24). And, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me even though he dies, yet shall he live. " (John 11:25). "...He (Jesus Christ) is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since he ever lives to make intercession for them" (Hebrews 11:25). "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us", Romans 5:8.

Please, my friend, please be assured, God wants to save us, not destroy us (John 3:17). Listen to what He says in Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the thoughts I think towards you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope"; Isaiah chapter 43, "...Fear not for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; You are mine. ... Since you were precious in my sight, You have been honoured, And I have loved you...Fear not for I am with you. ...I even I, am he who blots out your transgressions for my own sake..." Isaiah 43:1, 4, 5, 25. Why then, would one choose to disobey God and reject His offer?

Nevertheless, because God greatly values our freedom, He never forces the will. He allows us freedom to choose to have eternal life through Jesus Christ, or to reject it.

Which choice appeals most to you? What will your decision be? Our choice is demonstrated by our obedience. Who do you choose to obey?

This one's WAY too good to be "buried" in amongst all the others in Great Links!

Learning About God

A Gift Rejected

A TRUE STORY by Malcolm Forbes

Shared by Pr André Van Rensberg

A lady in a faded gingham dress and her husband, dressed in a homespun threadbare suit, stepped off the train in Boston, and walked timidly without an appointment into the Harvard University president's outer office.

The secretary could tell in a moment that such backwoods, country hicks had no business at Harvard and probably didn't even deserve to be in Cambridge.

"We'd like to see the president," the man said softly.

"He'll be busy all day," the secretary snapped."

"We'll wait," the lady replied. For hours the secretary ignored them, hoping that the couple would finally become discouraged and go away. They didn't, and the secretary, growing frustrated, finally decided to disturb the president, even though it was a chore she always regretted.

"Maybe if you see them for a few minutes, they'll leave," she told him. He sighed in exasperation and nodded. Someone of his importance obviously didn't have the time to spend with them, and he detested gingham dresses and homespun suits cluttering up his outer office.

The president, stern faced and with dignity, finally strutted toward the couple. The lady spoke, "We had a son who attended Harvard for one year. He loved Harvard. He was happy here. But about a year ago, he was accidentally killed. My husband and I would like to erect a memorial to him, somewhere on campus."

The president wasn't touched. He was shocked. "Madam," he said, gruffly, "we can't put up a statue for every person who has attended Harvard and died. If we did, this place would look like a cemetery."

"Oh, no," the lady explained quickly. "We don't want to erect a statue. We thought we would like to give a building to Harvard."

The president rolled his eyes. He glanced at the gingham dress and homespun suit, then exclaimed, "A building! Do you have any earthly idea how much a building costs? We have over seven and a half million dollars in the physical buildings here at Harvard."

For a moment the lady was silent. The president was pleased. Maybe he could get rid of them now. The lady turned to her husband and said quietly, "Is that all it costs to start a university? Why don't we just start our own?" Her husband nodded. The president's face wilted and fell in confusion and bewilderment.

Mr. and Mrs. Leland Stanford got up and walked away, traveling to Palo Alto, California where they established the university that bears their name, Stanford University, a memorial to a son that Harvard no longer cared about.

You can easily judge the character of others by how they treat those who they think can do nothing for them.

Life In A Cave

By Brian Stromsoe ©

Shared by Ed Damas

I was in Carlsbad Caverns when the lights went out!

The National Park Service actually turned them off as part of their presentation. About 40 tourists sat there in pitch black darkness listening to each other breathe. It was then that one of my kids slid their unseen hand slowly over to my wife's shoulder and "tweaked" her. That was not a good idea. My wife is not a great fan of darkness, or of things that crawl in the night. We almost had to pull her off the nearest stalactite.

There are many caves mentioned in the Bible, and two of them interest me. Elijah's cave and Lazarus' cave. Elijah's

cave had to do with his fear and personal insecurities whereas Lazarus's cave had to do with his death and separation. Caves are holes in the earth where something used to be, but disappeared over time. Many of the great cave systems in the United States were formed when water began eroding or chemically dissolving softer earth like limestone. As time relentlessly marched on, marvelous and magnificent cave systems like the Carlsbad Caverns in New Mexico were formed. Lava flow, sea waves, or winds form some caves. The caves of ancient Israel were created in limestone formations as water diluted the minerals.

People often take refuge in caves. In order to escape storms, armies, and other dangers – people have often taken temporary refuge in caves. But rarely do people take up permanent residence in caves. Of course, in Lazarus situation it was supposed to be a bit more permanent arrangement. His corpse had been placed in the cave because he was recently deceased and was not going anywhere; it was his burial chamber. John wrote, "It was a cave, and a stone lay against it." (John 11:38b). Caves were used as burial tombs for the remains of dead people Israel. I've always wanted to have been a spectator at that particular event near Bethany. Jesus did a lot of things in 3 short years, but this really intrigues me and makes the hair on my neck stand up. Lazarus was dead 4 days. A corpse is a corpse after 4 days. There is no magic mumbo-jumbo or secret potion that some trickster can use on a 4-day-old corpse. It is going nowhere, nowhere, nowhere. No way, no how.

I don't think Jesus yelled or screamed or huffed and puffed. He merely spoke and things obeyed him. Oceans, waves, winds, demons, blind eyes, tied tongues, plugged ears, and even dead bodies. I don't know if I would want to be in the cave with Lazarus - or outside with Jesus, when He spoke the words, "Lazarus, come forth." But, it would have really been something, wouldn't it?

Well, just think of all of the people who are dead to God because of their lives of sin. They are also in their own personal caves of death, separated from God with no signs of spiritual life. Death takes many forms, one of which is spiritual darkness and separation from the God of Creation. Well I have been there when some of these people were beckoned to leave their caves of death by the Lord Jesus. The transformation in their lives has been as real and powerful and dynamic as the physical resurrection of poor old Lazarus' body. Scripture is pretty plain when it says that we all are dead in our trespasses

and sin. But it is also pretty plain when it says that "he has quickened us" who call upon Him. That is the same old lighting bolt of life that invaded the cave of Lazarus that can be used to bring a spark of life to a dead soul. The old Frankenstein movie with the sparks whirling upward and the lightning coming downward could never produce the life that the power and majesty of God can produce in a body as lifeless as Frankenstein's cobbled up creature. But God can and does bring spiritual life to those who call upon Him.

What about Elijah's cave? No dead men there. But, there was one beat up, frightened man who had just done great battle for his God, and was now hiding in his cave. I don't condemn Elijah for hiding in a cave. I've been there too, haven't you? Life can beat all of us up and toss us like limp rags; much like a tornado picks up a house, tears it apart, and scatters the pieces over a 10-acre farm. If the mouth of the cave had a zipper, I think Elijah would have entered, turned around, zipped the cave shut, and never come back out again. Another servant of God with one too many arrows sticking out of his body, wanting to just curl up and go to sleep and never wake up again. Not an uncommon problem for those who fight the fight of faith and get bruised in the fight. Well Elijah's God came after him. God's soldiers have more battles to fight. You can have one night in the cave nursing your wounds, but there is work to be done and you have to come out of the cave to fight again.

God was not in the strong wind or any other strong force of nature that men look at. No, He was the still, small, voice asking, "Elijah, what are you doing here?" The message is clear. You cannot stay in the cave. You cannot hide from God when there is work to be done. Clean up your wounds. Bandage your pain. Embrace your God. Get ready to go back to work.

Honey or Vinegar

Shared by Ronnie Leviner

The preacher placed two identical jars on the table next to the pulpit.

He quoted 1 Samuel 16:7 The Lord does not look at the things man looks at. Man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart.

"These jars came from the same factory, were made of the same materials, and can hold the same amount. But they are different," he explained.

Then he upset one and it oozed out honey.

He turned over the other, and vinegar spilled out.

"When a jar is upset, whatever is in it comes out. Until the jars were upset, they looked alike. The difference was

within and could not be seen. When they were upset, their contents were revealed.

Until we are upset, we put on a good front. But when we are upset, we reveal our innermost thoughts and attitudes, "for out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks." Luke 6:45

What if someone tipped you over today? What would flow out??

Would you reveal the "honey" of grace and patience or the "vinegar" of anger and criticism?

"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers over a multitude of sins." 1 Peter 4:8

*Don't worry about avoiding temptation.
As you grow older, it will avoid you.*

Unknown



MAILBOX



Graven Images.

Hi David,

I just started reading your book *God's Deal With YOU* (again) and came across Rule 2 and have a question for you. I know and understand that we are not supposed to bow down and worship anything hand made but I am just curious since I am a fine artist and paint portraits of Jesus, wouldn't my paintings be an act of worship to God himself?

See, I am not sure if I happen to sell my paintings (which I am getting ready to perhaps enter into art fairs, etc), if that would be wrong. Obviously, the Lord has given me a gift which I wish to share but yet, am I puzzled because I have been told I can make money selling my art. (of course, I like the idea of using my money to help out the poor, and to be able to replenish my paints, brushes, etc.)

I just wanted your thoughts on this.

God bless you!

Ed

Thank you for your message and for your very valid questions Ed.

If you are gifted to be able to paint life-like portraits, I see absolutely nothing wrong with that. After all, my lifelong profession before my eyesight became too bad to continue was photography and over the years I have made hundreds of portraits for clients. I often used the term "memory insurance" when speaking about my profession. That is to say that the image I created in a split second of time preserved what the subject(s) looked like at that precise moment in their lives. It was, if you will, an "instant family heirloom" to be handed down for generations to come. That is what "family" is all about - cherished memories and historical records. Nothing wrong with it so far!

However, if I ever made a portrait of a person that someone "idolised" (say, a beautiful girlfriend or a child), and that portrait became the object of a form of worship, then the commandment would have been broken. Now this must be kept in context too. When I made the portrait it wasn't *created* as an object of worship (and remember, worship can take many forms - it need not involve bowing down in the literal sense - it could, for example, simply mean that someone looks at the picture and unrealistically adores the person in it). Even then though, the FORM of that adoration is significant. If it is simply a parent looking at a child that they have raised and nurtured in love I don't personally have too much of a problem with that. But, on the other hand, if, for example, the portrait is of a movie star or sports hero that the viewer doesn't know personally, but nonetheless physically desires, that would fall into the realms of idolatry and then the portrait would be deemed to fall into the "graven image" category biblically speaking.

So it isn't only a matter of MAKING a portrait - it is WHY it was made and bought. Which brings me to the specific of your question. Where you say that you are painting portraits of Jesus, I am bound to ask, how can you do that? Have you ever seen Jesus? Do you have any photographs of Him to work from? The answers to both of those questions are, of course, "No!" Therefore it must follow that what you refer to as portraits of Jesus are, in actual fact, just portraits of an imaginary man who fits the popular conception of what Jesus looked like. I have to be honest here and tell you that doesn't sit too comfortably with me. I believe you need to closely examine two motives here Ed. One is your own. If we accept your own description of yourself as a "fine artist," then why not paint portraits of people that you can actually have sit for them rather than imaginary ones? The other motive is your buyer's. Why would someone spend money on a picture of a person in the belief that he is Jesus when they MUST know that he isn't? It seems to me that, when someone does that, he or she isn't very familiar with the second commandment. Let me categorically state here that, in my opinion, a painting is just as much a graven image as a sculpture.

Now, as I'm sure you know, there is a small picture of a man at the top left of the Beloved King Ministries web site. I'm sure that everyone who visits our web site immediately knows who that man is meant to be. I actually deliberated long and hard whether or not to put that image on the web site and, in the end, it was included as much to break up the monotony of a lot of words as anything. Does that make it OK? I'm honestly still not sure. If I received the slightest suggestion that anyone visiting the site was making ANY sort of obeisance to that picture, it would be removed faster that you can imagine! As it is, I don't for one minute believe that happens.

To give a definitive answer to your question is not really my call Ed. As I have suggested, you must examine not only your own motives but those of your buyers and THEN make some rational decisions. You see, as far as I am concerned, I would much rather pay out hard-earned money for beautiful portraits of my

grandchildren than of some hypothetical image of an artist's idea of what Jesus may have looked like. Therefore part of MY answer to your question is, stop making those "Jesus pictures" and concentrate your talents on making pictures of real people (not that I'm suggesting Jesus isn't real of course! But I hope you know what I mean).

Scripture says that the labourer is worthy of his hire (Luke 10:7) and so you should have NO qualms about charging realistic prices for your work. Don't allow yourself to be dragged into some "false modesty" thing where you only want to get your costs back because it is neither necessary NOR honouring the gift you have been given. Remember, it God's most ardent desire to bless you with His richest rewards. If you are able to paint beautiful landscapes (I used to do that many years ago) as decoration for otherwise blank walls, why not concentrate your efforts and talents on that and sell your work for the very best price you can get for it. Many Christians see that sort of attitude as profiteering and then start to "wear" guilt over it. I suggest to you that is absolute rubbish! Nowhere more than in the field of art does the law of supply and demand apply. If your work is wanted by more people than you can satisfy then put your price up! You see, value is not something that can be easily quantified. Value is a perception - especially the perception of a potential buyer. By no stretch of anyone's imagination can Rubens' "Massacre of the Innocents" (in my opinion a rather unpleasant and cluttered painting) be WORTH seventy-five million dollars! After all, the canvas and paint would probably only cost about \$50 - \$100 on today's market and there are PLENTY of copyists who could faithfully make reproductions of the picture that only an expert could identify as copies so that only leaves one aspect of the painting that the value can be attributed to - the painter! In other words, if there is someone who HAS that much money to spend and that person wants that particular painting badly enough and is willing to pay that much for it, so be it. It's not like it is something that anyone desperately needs for survival is it? Quite simply, NO painting is WORTH seventy-five million dollars AS A PAINTING. The value today is its investment value and, as such, the picture on the canvas is totally irrelevant! It could equally be wording! And whether that wording is the original handwriting of someone like Shakespeare or the printed words of a bank bond, in the end, it all comes down to what the owner of the article can expect to get for it should he ever need to realise his asset.

Now all of the last paragraph of this reply is a digression from your question but I felt it was important to emphasise to you that, if God has given you a talent, you should never be ashamed to use it to your very best benefit. If you feel called to paint spiritual pictures, rather than making straight portraits of a man's head and shoulders, may I suggest that you select potentially graphical scenes from Scripture and depict those? How about, for example, making a picture of your impression of Jesus calling Lazarus from his tomb? Now THAT'S a picture that I believe would sell very easily and, if you're as good as you say, you should get a good price for it. You see, such a picture would never become an object of worship but, if you are able to capture the highly emotive scene as only a skilled artist could, it would be a very powerful testimony for the Gospel wouldn't it? I am just now imagining the expressions on the faces of the onlookers! You could spend months on such a work and it could be worth a fortune. Unfortunately, if history is any example, that might not be until after you are dead though! (Please let me know your price Ed! I'd like it to be about 30 x 40 inches.)

I hope I have helped brother.

[The Prophecy Code online Seminars](#)

Hi David!

I have been watching the Prophecy Code seminars that you advertised in the April magazine. Seminar #6 was AWESOME! I have listened to two seminars tonight (5 and 6) and I have 13 pages of notes! I have to admit that Doug Batchelor is such a wonderful presenter of the Word of God!

I LOVED the mirror demonstration! Wow! The truth has never been clearer to me than it is right now at this moment. So for what it is worth, YOU were the one whom the Lord used to give that truth to me. Doug just reaffirmed it for me with more words that I could understand. Doug basically repeated all you have taught in times past, but with a little more added understanding. His demonstration really helped to illustrate the truth YOU have taught me.

I FULLY understand now the importance of obeying the ten commandments - ALL of them. As I used to say... the Holy Spirit has "quickenened" or "brought these truths to my full understanding". I MUST go forward and obey my Lord! And NOBODY will stand in my way! I stand on Isaiah 54:17!

A Sister in Christ

Thank you for this wonderful endorsement of Pastor Batchelor's seminars Sister. I know that, once *anyone* understands and accepts the truths that Doug teaches, their lives will change for the better for ever – and "ever" means eternity! As mentioned below, the timing of your letter was nothing short of miraculous!

GREAT NEWS

A TESTIMONY TO WARM THE HEART

(Footnote to this months Editorial)

After writing this month's editorial, "Ask and it Shall be Given Unto You," I made a point of praying the Jabez prayer more or less word-for-word but, in particular, asking God to open more doors in unexpected places for me to do His work.

It just so happened that I said this prayer first thing in the morning on a day when I worked driving my taxi.

For obvious reasons, it is strict company policy that any "contentious" topics of conversation should never be instigated by drivers and so religion and politics don't get discussed unless the customer opens a conversation in such a way as to require some sort of response from the driver.

That very day, two separate passengers – both total strangers – in a round-about way, brought Christianity into the conversation as we travelled along!

As customers often do by way of breaking the ice when they are travelling alone, one lady opened a general sort of conversation about the life of a taxi driver and asked if I drove every day. When I told her that I didn't, she asked if I had another occupation to which I replied that I have an Internet Christian ministry that takes up much of my time.

To my surprise, the lady became extremely interested and asked lots of questions about the ministry and, in particular, since it was an Internet ministry, how she could access it. In response to one of her questions I explained how BKM started with me realising that one relatively inexpensive way to make my book, "God's Deal With YOU" as readily available to the largest audience possible was to publish on the Internet.

She said that she would very much like to read the book and so I gave her the URL and asked her to send

an email if she would like to be added to the Making A Difference mailing list.

Not only that though, at the end of her journey this dear soul not only gave me a generous tip for her cab ride but made a totally separate and generous donation to Beloved King Ministries! Needless to say, after she left, I thanked the Lord enthusiastically for answering my prayer so rapidly!

Then later that same day whilst the euphoria of the first encounter was still bubbling in me, another couple asked whether Friday nights are good for business. I responded that I never work on Friday nights and, when asked why, I simply said that I would never work on the Sabbath (it's always a great opener!). This, of course, prompted some questions that ended up with the customers also asking for the Beloved King Ministries' URL and expressing genuine eagerness to get home to look at it.

Then, as if that wasn't enough, when I arrived home, the second email (above) was in my Inbox! Talk about being on "cloud nine!" I asked the Lord to "bless me indeed" and He did!

Realising the truth of the message (not that I didn't when I wrote it!), I have prayed the Jabez prayer every day since with more and more people opening similar conversations in my taxi.

I ASKED and I am being given according to God's will!

So I ask all readers to not only pray that those people that God brought to me will begin a whole new walk with Him as a result of our brief conversations but also to pray the prayer of Jabez for yourselves.

IT WORKS!

GOD IS WATCHING OUT FOR YOU

By Karen Kirk Thompson

I was going through a divorce and had just moved with my daughters into an old but affordable home. "Please see us through this", I prayed daily, wondering how I would manage alone. Then the furnace stopped running just as the temperature plummeted. It was unusually cold for Phoenix and the house was freezing.

I called the utility company and uncovered an unbelievable string of errors. First, I learned my account had been closed because the gas bill had not been paid. I had never gotten the statement because it had been sent to the wrong address. Then when the company tried calling me, my answering machine (which I didn't know was broken) didn't record the messages!

There was a strict policy that a cancelled account would not be reinstated without first doing a check of the entire heating system. So, after all the upheaval and financial stress we had been through, I had to pack up my kids and go to a hotel for a couple of days until workmen inspected my furnace.

"God, aren't you watching out for us at all?" I fumed - until the day the workers came. "Lady," one of the workmen said after the inspection, "You and your family are lucky to be alive. We discovered a hole in the heat exchanger that would have leaked carbon monoxide directly into your home. Thank God your furnace didn't go on."

The Snowflake Theory

By [Julie Sanders](#)

While I was sitting in the car waiting, desperately waiting for the car to warm up, it started to snow. As the snowflakes hit the windshield, the old saying or scientific theory came to mind that no 2 snowflakes are alike. As I'm trying to keep warm and still watching the snow fall, I pondered that notion; the snowflake theory. I've always believed this theory automatically. It's what I was told. It's what I have learned. I'm amazed that I remembered anything from science class. It wasn't one of my better subjects. As I'm finally warming up, I thought: How could that theory have ever come to pass? How could they come to such conclusions if snow continues to fall every year? And how do you study snowflakes anyway? They either hit the windshield and they're melted or they hit the ground and are stuck to a mass of other flakes. How do you study flakes from 200 years ago with snowflakes now? Or how do you study every snowflake that has ever fallen?

It's so easy to believe what I am told or what I am taught in school. The big bang theory... evolution... gravity... planet Pluto... worms are unisexed... aliens... etc. etc. I told you science wasn't my subject but I guess I remembered some things. We have trusted scientists through history and believed without much question. It's what they know and we trust them to deliver AND... WE BELIEVE!

Bring on Noah and the ark, Adam and Eve, David and Goliath, Moses and the Sea of Reeds, Daniel in the lion's den, etc....or the topic of GOD AND JESUS CHRIST (death and resurrection) and you will see eyeballs rolling, people walking away, people laughing, "Yeah right!" It is so hard to believe. WHY? We are willing to believe anything scientific; we are willing to believe the big bang theory rather than believe in God's creation of the world. We would rather believe in evolution rather than God's creation of man. How do I know that there is a planet Pluto? I myself have never seen it or any other planet for that matter. Some say you can see Venus or Mars on a particular night, but to me they look like any other star in the sky.

Why is it so hard to believe in God? It is the state of our heart that determines our belief. If we are very worldly people we may never believe. If we are filled with hate, anger, unforgiveness, we may never believe. It is the state of our heart. If we are desperate and cry out to God, He will answer. I guarantee it! Most of us don't stumble onto God until we are so buried in misery, so deep in the pit of worthlessness, and feeling so extremely unloved that we can do nothing else but look up. It is our last hope!

It took me a while to come to Christ, though I felt his calling early on. I always felt a tugging here or there. And as you know from past God's M & M's that He stopped me doing things along the way. I didn't always listen to that small voice inside of me, that's why I ended up self destructive some of the time. I was so governed by the world around me and their view of me, I had no value, no purpose, no goals and certainly no future.

I NOW KNOW THERE IS A GOD!!! I KNOW THERE IS!!! [Hebrews 11:1](#) Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see. No one but God could have picked up this self destructive soul, this hurting ache so fierce inside, this guilt ridden/addictive unloved person and brought me to where I am today. Yeah I know, the eyeballs are rolling again. You're saying I could have gotten some therapy. Yeah, I could have; May have taken years though because no one knows me as well as God does - and He does from the inside. He knows my HEART! He knew what was bothering me. He knew how to heal me. He knows how many hairs are on my head. He has loved me from the beginning and will always love me beyond what any human could ever give me. He wiped my tears. I asked for forgiveness. He filled me with love. He started to show me that I had value from the start, but listened to the wrong voices. He gave me purpose-evangelism. And He gave me a goal - lost souls and Heaven.

I can't describe to you what has happened to me since I've let Jesus Christ into my heart. [Matthew 7:7-8](#) Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened. If you truly have not found God or never tried to find Him, just get on your knees and pray. Pray like you have never prayed before - not the mechanical prayers - NO! Pray sincerely from your heart. Tell God you have never known Him before and would like to know him now. I PROMISE you WILL find God if your heart truly wants to know HIM. I know many THINK they know him because they go to church or maybe because they know the name of GOD. Trust me: You do not know him. [1st John 2:4](#): The man who says "I know him", but does not do what He (GOD) commands is a liar, and the truth is not in him. [Matthew 7:21](#) Not everyone who says to me Lord, Lord will enter the kingdom of Heaven, but only he

who does the will of my Father who is in Heaven. You can have a relationship with God through Jesus Christ. Just by believing in Jesus' death and resurrection, acknowledging that you are a sinner, stating that you need a Savior, redemption through His blood, and His love. You will then receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38-39 Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call".

James 2:26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead.

James 2:5 Listen my dear brothers; Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him.

Hebrews 9:27-28 Just as man is destined to die once and after that to face judgement so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

Titus 2:13 While we wait for the blessed hope—the glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own eager to do what is good!

2nd Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription, "The Lord knows those who are His and "everyone who confesses the name of the Lord MUST turn away from wickedness.

1st Peter 4:2 As a result he does not live the rest of his earthly life for evil human desires, but rather for the will of God.

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.

Romans 8:6 The mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace.

Matthew 5:8 Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

Recently, I was asked to lead a small group. I have been asked similar requests before and ALWAYS backed away. I was scared to death to step forward. The old world views came back to haunt me and I thought I was past this infirmity. Now I know I must deal with it, with God's help and move beyond my past. I am being shaped into what God intended me to be and I'm excited about it.

Love in Christ ...Jules, A Daily Walker

BELIEVING

Lord forgive me, for I have sinned. Oh! Satan had his hold on me.
In a tarnished past that I conceived. Relentless, in knowing God to be.
Troubled waters wore me thin: No strength to endure the burdens there.
A crying heart, a numbing song: Believing, my life was rightly wrong.
Awakened by baptismal prayer: Humbled down to bended knee:
Longing for salvation's peace: Believing in God wholeheartedly.
My life follows a righteous path with all God's teachings to share.
God's love was the warmth I craved. Reaching out to God, I was saved.
Time doesn't wait for you. It keeps on going
If you don't make commitments now, you'll be without knowing.
Believing in Him will start... Your spiritual growing.
Let His love fill your soul... A peaceful over-flowing.
Prepare yourself and family for God's eternal showing.



The Sherry Walter Message

We Are One

You are the vine, I am the branch. You are the air that I breathe. You water me. You feed me.

In you I can produce your oxygen. Your breath produces life. As you penetrate through me, new growth flourishes. You cultivate me.

I remain in you and you in me, you uphold me. You nourish me to help me grow. Where I lack you infill me.

When I rest upon you, my tender branch is secure. A trunk is always solid. The stem feeds the branches and leaves through the main artery.

So fruit will come forth in abundance. You produce more branches. You send forth shoots. Soon my leaves will be vivid green.

Even when I do not produce; because you hold back, I wait and depend on you; for soon comes my season to blossom.

There is a time for everything. For now I rest in you, soaking in all you have for me. My confidence is in you.

I wait quietly. I wait patiently. I wait to sense the surge.

You complete me, we grow as one. I can not grow without you. I would wither away and die.

As old growth dies off, you prune my branch. Only I can produce new growth remaining in you. I need you.

I am attached to you. What effects you effects me too. I love you.

I rely upon only you. You are shaping and molding my form as I grow. May I Father, produce clusters of grapes that are beautiful to your eyes and sweet tasting to your precious lips. My life is only to reflect and glorify you.

The Lord is the vine. The Father is the vineyard keeper. I am the branch. In the vineyard we are one.

Let us get up early to the vineyards, let us see if the vine flourish, whether the tender grape appear, and the pomegranates bud forth: there will I give thee my loves. *Song of Solomon 7:12*

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit, so shall ye be my disciples. *John 15:8*

A MOMENT TO CONSIDER

*Shared by Harvey and June Schneider,
Servant Soldier Ministries*

A Pope and a Barefoot Widow

By Ron & Sue Bates

The world watched in wonder at the gold, glitter, and glorying in the life and death of a Pope. What did God think of this and was He there? He was there because He is omnipresent.

When you read the Bible carefully, you will note that God's attention is always focused on the widows and orphans.

If you were wondering where else God was last week and what He was doing.....I can assure you that He was with a little band of gypsies that gathered to pay their respects to an unsung heroine of the faith. She was buried the same day as the Pope....in the village of Golosei, Romania.

Georgita (pronounced Gorghitza) was widowed early in her marriage and was left with five children. She returned to the Lord (as the Romanian believers call conversion) in 1977 and the closest church was five miles. She walked there every Sunday without fail, even in the harsh Romanian winters, until after the Revolution in '89 when they built a church near her home. She cried at the dedication, thanking God that she no longer had to make the long walk. She often had no shoes.

She remembered what it was like during those Communist years. Georgita was persecuted not only because of her faith, but because she was born a gypsy. They threw rocks to break the windows at her church, cursed the members, and mocked Jesus Holy Name. But this didn't deter her one bit.

Life was and is difficult in Romania, but more so for the gypsies, especially the widowed. She carved wooden spoons and sold them door to door to feed her family. There was no money in these villages, so she received a small amount of flour or corn meal in exchange. She left a legacy of hard work, perseverance and deep faith.

Georgita was illiterate, but always reminded her children of her favourite verse, "Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against Thee." God's Word was written on her heart and praise for her Saviour was always on her lips.

In her later years, she became deaf, but that didn't stop her from singing with her beloved Saints. She remembered the words she learned at the little church where she was saved and watched the lips of other believers when they sang. They would sing: "Jesus is a pilgrim in this world of sin" and Jesus is always with me, everywhere I go," and that He was.

Before she died, her family and Christian friends gathered at her bedside. She told them, "When I was hungry, you brought me food, when I was cold, you brought me firewood, when I was sick and lonely, you visited me." Then she closed her eyes and went to sleep.

She died in a tiny, wooden shack with dirt floors. But they knew that God was with them in that room.....unashamed of their outward surroundings. He, as did her many acquaintances, saw her great faith in a God who loves all His children no matter what their colour or country.

A little brown, wrinkled mother, so totally dedicated to her Saviour, received from Him her crown of glory....her crown of righteousness reserved for those that love Him.

No pomp and ceremony down here for this little Saint who suffered a lifetime of pain and persecution and poverty. Yet all of Heaven rejoiced at her homecoming.

She was a founding member of the church in Golosei. She has left behind a large family - children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren, all of whom are believers. Many in her village have returned to God as a result of her witness.

She wanted Christ's love to always be seen in her life and to glorify Him in everything she did. According to the testimony of her friends and family, it is the way she lived and died.

This humble, illiterate, poor gypsy woman had found the key to happiness and spiritual riches.....something that no amount of money could ever buy.

From the Pope to the barefoot widow to every man, woman and child ever born, God's glorious message is still the same: "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."

The Apostle Paul addressed most of his Epistles to the saints. It is clear that those who call upon the name of the Lord and are washed in His blood have achieved Sainthood. Are you a saint? Have you asked God for forgiveness and had the miracle of the cleansing of sin performed on you?

Never Underestimate The Power Of A Seed

By Donna Mae Ashburn

Never underestimate the power of a seed.

God didn't. When His kingdom was ravaged and His people had forgotten His name, He planted His seed.

When the soil of the human heart had grown crusty, He planted His seed. When religion had become a ritual and the temple a trading post, He planted His seed.

Want to see a miracle? Watch Him as he places the seed of His own self in the fertile womb of a Jewish girl.

Up It grew, "like a tender green shoot, sprouting from a root in dry and sterile ground." (Isaiah 53:2) The seed spent a lifetime pushing back the stones that tried to keep It underground. The seed made a ministry out of shoving away the rocks that cluttered His father's soil.

The stones of legalism that burdened backs.

The stones of oppression that broke bones.

The stones of prejudice that fenced out the needy.

But it was the final stone that proved to be the supreme test of The Seed. The stone of death-rolled by humans and sealed by Satan in front of the tomb. For a moment it appeared The Seed would be stuck in the earth. For a moment, it looked like this rock was too big to be budged.

But then, somewhere in the heart of the earth, The Seed of God stirred, shoved, and sprouted. The ground trembled, and the rock of the tomb tumbled.

And the Flower of Easter blossomed.

Dear Mister Jesus

[Click the link](#)

GREAT LINKS

Please make the time to click the titles and visit the web sites below.

Their owners have put many hours work into producing beautiful testimonies, most of which take only a few moments to read and enjoy.

A big "Thank you" to all the dear friends who have taken the time to send these to us.

If you would like your web site to be included in this column, please [email](#) us.

We would love to hear from you.

If you enjoy what these talented folk have created, their names and contact information are on the pages.

So why not sign their guestbooks and add an encouraging comment.

If you have any difficulty opening links please see the instructions on the last page of this magazine.

* Indicates the site includes music

POEMS

[Angels Unawares](#) *

[Let Your Home Be A Witness](#) *

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"God's Deal With YOU"

By David Rex Holt BA

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God's Deal With YOU will inspire you to draw closer to God while challenging you to examine where you stand in obedience to God's Word. What did Jesus mean when he said, "If you want to enter life, obey the commandments?" What is spiritual warfare? What is faith? What kind of praise does God desire? These questions and more are some of the issues that are addressed in God's Deal With YOU. This book will challenge you in ways that no other book can. You will be challenged in areas you never even thought of. The truths shared in this book are straight from the Word of God. Reading this book has helped me to understand what obeying God really means. The Scriptures came to life in ways I never thought possible! If you want to be challenged in your walk with God and if you are ready to truly examine your heart then this book is for you!

Yvette Burleigh

DEVOTIONALS

If you enjoy stimulating, succinct and scripturally sound devotionals, I highly recommend that you have a look at the following web sites where you can read some past messages and enrol for the regular mailings.

[God Today - Daily Word](#)

(Click ARCHIVE at the top left)

[Life Changing Love](#)

A verse of Scripture for your soul and a smile for your spirit.

[Share A Prayer](#)

A short daily prayer, succinct, sincere and tastefully presented.

RECOMMENDED WEBSITES

[Amazing Facts](#)

Reaching the world with God's end-time message

By Doug Batchelor

[The Advent Message](#)

The TRUTH, the whole TRUTH and nothing but the TRUTH

By Brent Whinfield

[CC's Christian Corner](#)

Christian love from the heart of a wife and mother

By Yvette Burleigh

[The Philosopher's Pearl](#)

Some thought provoking ideas for sceptics

TO BRING A SMILE

A cheerful heart is good medicine
(Proverbs 17:22a)

DIED IN SERVICE

One Sabbath morning, the pastor noticed little Alex standing in the foyer of the church staring up at a large plaque. It was covered with names with small American flags mounted on either side of it. The seven year old had been staring at the plaque for some time, so The pastor walked up, stood beside the little boy, and said quietly, "Good morning Alex."

"Good morning Pastor," he replied, still focused on the plaque "Pastor, what is this?" he asked the pastor.

The pastor said, "Well, son, it's a memorial to all the young men and women who died in the service."

Soberly, they just stood together, staring at the large plaque.

Finally, little Alex's voice, barely audible and trembling with fear, asked, "Which service, the 9:00 or the 11:00?"

Four Brothers

Shared by Nancy Wall

Four brothers left home for college and they became successful Doctors and lawyers and prospered.

Some years later, they chatted after having dinner together. They discussed the gifts they were able to give their elderly mother who lived far away in another city.

The first said, "I had a big house built for Mama."

The second said, "I had a hundred thousand dollar theatre built in the house."

The third said, "I had my Mercedes dealer deliver an SL600 to her."

The fourth said, "You know how Mamma loved reading the Bible and you know she can't read anymore because she can't see very well. I met this preacher who told me about a parrot that can recite the entire Bible! It took twenty preachers 12 years to teach him. I had to pledge to contribute \$100,000 a year for twenty years to the church, but it was worth it. Mamma just has to name the chapter and verse and the parrot will recite it."

The other brothers were impressed.

After the holidays Mom sent out her Thank You notes. She wrote:

"Milton, the house you built is so huge. I live in only one room, but I have to clean the whole house. Thanks anyway."

"Marvin, I am too old to travel. I stay home, I have my groceries delivered, so I never use the Mercedes. The thought was good.

Thanks."

"Michael, you gave me an expensive theatre with Dolby sound, it could hold 50 people, but all of my friends are dead, I've lost my hearing and I'm nearly blind. I'll never use it. Thank you for the gesture just the same."

"Dearest Melvin, you were the only son to have the good sense to give a little thought to your gift. The chicken was delicious. Thank you."

HE LISTENS

There was a little old lady who was very spiritual who would step out on her porch every day, raise her arms to the sky and yell "Praise the Lord."

One day, an atheist bought the house next door to her, and he became very irritated with the spiritual lady. So after a month or so of her yelling, "Praise the Lord" from her porch, he went outside on his porch and yelled back, "There is no Lord." Yet, the little old lady continued.

One cold, wintry day, when the little old lady couldn't get to the store, she went out on her porch, raised her

hands up to the sky and said, "Help me Lord, I have no more money, it's cold, and I have no more food."

The next morning, she went outside, and there were three bags of food on the porch, enough to last her a week. "Praise the Lord," she yelled.

The Atheist stepped out from the bushes and said "There is no Lord ha ha ha, I bought those groceries!"

The little old lady raised her arms to the sky and said, "Praise the Lord, you sent me groceries and you made the Devil pay for them".

Think About It!

A Steven Wright Gem shared by Nancy Wall

A conscience is what hurts when all your other parts feel so good.

The Best Headlines of the year 2003

Police Begin Campaign to Run Down Jaywalkers

AND,

TO BRING A TEAR

Maybe of joy - maybe of sadness

Crucifixion

Shared by Karen Lyons

This is tough to read, but we all need to realize just what crucifixion is all about. Jesus went through this for us..... be challenged, be blessed.

What is crucifixion?

A medical doctor provides a physical description: The cross is placed on the ground and the exhausted man is quickly thrown backwards with his shoulders against the wood. The legionnaire feels for the depression at the front of the wrist. He drives a heavy, square wrought-iron nail through the wrist deep into the wood. Quickly he moves to the other side and repeats the action, being careful not to pull the arms too tightly, but to allow some flex and movement.

The cross is then lifted into place. The left foot is pressed backward against the right foot, and with both feet extended, toes down, a nail is driven through the arch of each, leaving the knees flexed. The victim is now crucified.

As he slowly sags down with more weight on the nails in the wrists, excruciating fiery pain shoots along the fingers and up the arms to explode in the brain - the nails in the wrists are putting pressure on the median nerves. As he pushes himself upward to avoid this stretching torment, he places the full weight on the nail through his feet. Again he feels the searing agony of the nail tearing through the nerves between the bones of his feet.

As the arms fatigue, cramps sweep through his muscles, knotting them in deep, relentless, and throbbing pain. With these cramps comes the inability

to push himself upward to breathe. Air can be drawn into the lungs but not exhaled. He fights to raise himself in order to get even one small breath. Finally, carbon dioxide builds up in the lungs and in the blood stream, and the cramps partially subside. Spasmodically, he is able to push himself upward to exhale and bring in life-giving oxygen.

Hours of limitless pain, cycles of twisting, joint-rending cramps, intermittent partial asphyxiation, searing pain as tissue is torn from his lacerated back as he moves up and down against rough timber. (And remember, Jesus already had 37 lashes with a whip across his back) Then another agony begins: a deep, crushing pain deep in the chest as the pericardium slowly fills with cerium and begins to compress the heart. It is now almost over. The loss of tissue fluids has reached a critical level. The compressed heart is struggling to pump heavy, thick, sluggish blood into the tissues. The tortured lungs are making frantic efforts to gasp in small gulps of air. He can feel the chill of death creeping through his tissues. Finally, he allows his body to die.

All this the Bible records with the simple words, "and they crucified Him" (Mark 15:24). What wondrous love is this? Please send this to as many people as possible so that everyone will know the pain and suffering our Lord Jesus Christ went through for us.

Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. (Isaiah 12:2)



CHILDREN'S CORNER



How well do you know your Bible?

[Click Here For Some NEW Bible Quizzes](#)

This is a different link to the one we have run for the last few months so, if you enjoyed the other one, have a go with these.

Don't You Just Love 'em?

Some excerpts from children's letters to God
Shared by Nancy Wall

Dear GOD,
If You give me a genie like Aladdin, I will give You anything You want,
except my money or my chess set.
--Raphael

Cindy the Cat

Sally had a little cat named Cindy. She named her cat Cindy because it was all grey just like the cinders left in the fireplace after the fire went out.

Sally and Cindy were best friends. Cindy loved to chase things because that's what cats do. So Sally made a woolly ball and tied it to a piece of string. She would run as fast as she could all around the garden with the woolly ball bouncing along behind her at the end of the string and Cindy would do her very best to catch it!

Sometimes Sally let Cindy catch the ball because it wouldn't have been fair otherwise. When Cindy caught the ball Sally always gave her a treat to eat as a reward. The two of them played for hours and hours and neither of them seemed to ever get tired.

Another of Cindy and Sally's favourite things was riding in Dad's car. Now most cats don't particularly like cars but Cindy was different. She would stand on her back legs on Sally's lap with her front paws on the dashboard and intently look out of the front window at everything they passed. And if Sally was sitting in the back, she would do the same thing back to front and look out of the back window. It didn't matter to Cindy which way she was going – forwards or backwards – just so long as she could see all the sights! If ever the family went out in the car, Cindy would eagerly jump onto Sally's knee with a little "miaow" and take up her position.

One day, when Sally came home from school, there was no Cindy to run out to greet her. At first that didn't worry her too much because Cindy sometimes liked to

go off by herself chasing mice or grasshoppers. It was funny when she chased grasshoppers because, just when she thought she had one cornered, it would jump right up over her head and disappear into the long grass. Once, when Sally was watching, a grasshopper even jumped right onto Cindy's head. That was SO funny that Sally laughed for days just thinking about it.

But today, when Sally called her name, Cindy didn't come running as she usually did. By dinner time there was still no Cindy. Sally asked her daddy and mummy if they could go looking for her pet and, even though dinner was going cold, Mum and dad agreed to go searching. After all, dinner could easily be warmed up in the microwave!

First they all looked under the house because that was a good place for mice. But there was no sign of Cindy there. Next Dad thought she might have climbed the big tree at the bottom of their garden and got stuck up it, But Cindy wasn't there either.

Suddenly Sally's Mum had an idea. "Maybe Cindy went next door and tried to catch Mr Brown's goldfish and fell into the pond." She said. So they all went and asked Mr Brown if they could check it out. But Cindy wasn't there either. Where COULD she be?

By this time Sally was starting to get scared. She started to imagine Cindy being stolen by a nasty person because Cindy WAS the prettiest cat she had ever seen. Then she imagined Cindy being run over and that made her cry. "Mummy, Mummy, what if Cindy is hurt and can't get help? What if no one knows?" she sobbed.

"Well, Sweetheart, don't let's start getting all upset over what MIGHT have happened." said Mum reassuringly. "Why don't we say a prayer and ask God to keep Cindy safe until we can find her?"

So Sally and her little brother Jamie and Mum and Dad all knelt down and held hands and Dad asked God in Jesus' name to protect Cindy and bring her safely home. Then, since there wasn't much else they could do, they all sat down to dinner.

Hardly a mouthful had been eaten when there was a knock on the door and so Dad got up to see who was there. When he opened the door there was Mr Johnson from three doors away with Cindy in his arms.

"My! Your cat is unusual!" he exclaimed. "I got into my car to go into town earlier and, about half way there I noticed her standing on the back seat looking out of the back window. I had to go all the way to the state capital on business with the governor and I was already late so I just had to take her along with me. She was quite happy though. She sure likes to ride in cars doesn't she?"

Sally's Dad laughed and called out to Sally, "Guess who's home?" In a flash Sally was at the door and cuddling her precious pet in her arms.

"Oh! Thank you Mr Johnson." she smiled from ear to ear and then, to Cindy, she said, "You're a very naughty cat! How many times have I told you NEVER to get into strange cars?!"

Mr Johnson and Mum and Dad all laughed and then Mr Johnson went off home pleased that he was able to make everyone happy.

Before the family resumed dinner Dad said, "Thank you Lord for hearing our prayer and bringing Cindy safely home and please bless this food." And everyone said, "Amen!"

Everyone except Cindy that is. She was too busy tucking into her dinner after a very interesting trip to the state capital to visit the governor. Being a travelling cat is very hungry work you know!

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Do you have any questions?

Do you have any suggestions?

Do you have any ideas?

Then why not visit a great new Christian forum site where YOU can post your very own thoughts, opinions and ideas as well as post questions where everyone visiting the forum can offer their answers?

**Click below to visit this great new web site where
YOUR comments are important.**

WFC Christian Forums

By the way, just because this site is owned and operated by a great Christian teenager, it's NOT just for young people.

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

So, whether you are 9 or 90, why not take a while to visit right now and register as a contributor?

THE BKM PLEDGE

As our long-time readers know, I have always thought of "Making A Difference" and Beloved King Ministries as OURS and not as "mine."

Without YOU, this ministry is nothing.

It is the loyal and loving support of our readers who readily share the stories, jokes and testimonies that they write or find that ensures that there will be a magazine each month.

"Making A Difference" will always be free to anyone who enjoys it. But that doesn't mean it costs nothing to produce and distribute.

I AND THE BKM TEAM PLEDGE TO PRAY FOR EVERYONE ON THE BKM MAILING LIST EVERY DAY

I PLEDGE TO DO ALL WITHIN MY GOD-GIVEN POWER TO BRING DOWN AND DESTROY SATAN'S COUNTERFEIT DECEPTIONS THAT ARE BEGUILING GOD'S SINCERE AND BEAUTIFUL CHILDREN.

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS YOU CAN BECOME MORE INVOLVED

WE NEED - PRAYER PARTNERS

If you would like to partner someone in regular prayer sessions through a mutually convenient Internet medium

PLEASE WRITE TO US

Tell us a little bit about yourself, your own spiritual needs as well as how knowing Jesus has changed your life and the sort of person you would like to partner.

WE NEED - REGULAR FINANCIAL PLEDGES FOR AS LITTLE AS TWENTY DOLLARS A YEAR

(That's less than forty cents a week!)

YOU CAN BECOME A PARTNER IN THIS MINISTRY AND MAKE A MEANINGFUL DIFFERENCE

TEN PERCENT OF ALL PARTNERSHIP DONATIONS IS GIVEN TO HELP STRUGGLING MINISTRIES AND OUTREACH PROGRAMMES IN THIRD-WORLD COUNTRIES

Email your pledge NOW and send all donations to:

Beloved King Ministries, 1 Pinehaven, 176 Ewing Road, Woodridge, Queensland 4114, Australia.
(Please make all checks payable to D.R. Holt since the Australian banks won't accept anything else!)

Jesus said,

"Give and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured unto you." (Luke 6:38)

AND

WE NEED - YOUR PRAYERS

*I would rather live my life as if there is a God,
and die to find out there isn't,
than live my life as if there isn't,
and die to find out there is.*

PRAYER

By Donna Mae Ashburn

Please take a moment to relax your mind and humble your heart to focus on Christ. Allow God to be the only person on your mind while you read this prayer. If we can take the time to read long jokes, stories, etc., we should give the same respect to this prayer. Friends who pray together, stay together.

Dear Lord, I thank You for this day. I thank You for my being able to see and to hear this morning. I'm blessed because You are a forgiving God and an understanding God. You have done so much for me and You keep on blessing me.

Forgive me this day for everything I have done, said or thought that was not pleasing to you. I ask now for Your forgiveness.

Please keep me safe from all danger and harm. Help me to start this day with a new attitude and plenty of gratitude. Let me make the best of each and every day to clear my mind so that I can hear from You. Please broaden my mind that I can accept all Your truths. Let me not whine and whimper over things I have no control over. Let me continue to see sin through Your eyes and acknowledge it as evil. And when I sin, let me repent, and confess with my mouth my wrongdoing, and receive the forgiveness of God.

And when this world closes in on me, let me remember Jesus' example - to slip away and find a quiet place to pray. It's the best response when I'm pushed beyond my limits. I know that when I can't pray, You listen to my heart.

Continue to use me to do Your will. Continue to bless me that I may be a blessing to others. Keep me strong that I may help the weak. Keep me uplifted that I may have words of encouragement for others. I pray for those who are lost and can't find their way. I pray for those who are misjudged and misunderstood. I pray for those who don't know You intimately. I pray for those who don't believe. But I thank you that I believe. I believe that God changes people and God changes things.

I pray for all my sisters and brothers. For each and every family member in their households. I pray for peace, love and joy in their homes that they are out of debt and all their needs are met. I pray that every eye that reads this knows there is no problem, circumstance, or situation greater than You. Every battle is in Your hands for You to fight. I pray that these words be received into the hearts of every eye that sees them and every mouth that confesses them willingly. This is my prayer.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

OPENING LINKS

Some readers have emailed us to say that clicking the hyperlinks in "Making A Difference" doesn't work. I don't know why that is but one easy way to get the addresses and access the websites is as follows:

1. Highlight the title using your mouse (it doesn't matter if you highlight the music asterisk too - it will still work).
2. With the title highlighted, click "Insert" on the menu bar at the top of your screen. This will give you a drop menu.
3. On the drop menu, click "Hyperlink." This will open a window titled "Edit Hyperlink."
4. Highlight the html address in the window labelled, "Type the file or web page name."
5. Copy the address by pressing Control and C together.
6. Close the "Edit Hyperlink" window by clicking the cancel button.
7. Then open your web browser (Internet Explorer or Netscape Navigator).
8. Place the cursor in the "Address" window at the top (or, if you already have an address in there, just highlight it).
9. Press Control and V together. That will copy the URL into the window.
10. Press Enter and the page will open.

I have done the above and it took just 23 seconds from step 1 to seeing the web page so, as you can see, it isn't really as hard as the ten steps make it seem!

If this magazine has been forwarded to you by a friend and you would like to be added to our regular mailing list please click [here](#) and, if you are too busy to write anything else, just type **PLEASE ADD TO MAILING LIST** in the subject box and your name(s) in the body of the email. Also, if the email address that you want the magazine sent to is different from the one you send the request from, please type that in the body of the email too.

Also, if your name is incomplete in the recipients list (i.e.: first or surname only or email address only), because our address book is now so big, please help us by letting us know your full name so that the lists can be updated and duplication is minimised. For this please type **UPDATE** in the subject box. Thank you so much for your help in this.

On the other hand, if "Making A Difference" has been sent to you in error and you have not enjoyed reading it and would like to be removed from the mailing list, please accept our apologies and click [here](#) and type **UNSUBSCRIBE** in the subject box and the email address to be unsubscribed in the body of the email.