

Journey Through Life Ministries

Your Spiritual Newsletter

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Journey Through Life Ministries' Newsletter is a quarterly publication promoting spiritual awareness and evangelism in the communities.

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Journey Through Life Ministries accepts testimonies and questions provided they are related to spiritual awareness. All testimonies and questions will be edited for content & validity.

Please note that Journey Through Life Ministries does not publish political or opinion pieces.



“God’s Word Is Timeless....Let It Be Your Guide”

Welcome to Journey Through Life Ministries’ Quarterly Newsletter. We pray you will be blessed by the reading of these inspirational articles.

Our goal is to fulfill the great commission Jesus commanded in Matthew 28:16-20 to “...go and make disciples of all....”

This is being achieved by working with churches, professional organizations, social services, and the publication of this quarterly newsletter. As an outreach ministry in the communities, we also offer to adults and youth Biblical studies through various enrichment programs, motivational teachings, and discipleship workshops. All of these programs are created to help individuals to discover the “love” of God and who they are in Christ. And, finally these programs will help individuals to learn the “freedom” they have in Christ Jesus as they become “free” spiritually enabling them to live their lives walking victoriously in the destiny God has planned for them.

We Would Love To Hear From You!

Do you have a testimony or praise report you would like to share? We would love to publish it! Your testimonies and praise reports are encouraging words of praise and glory of what God has done in your life—and it will be a great help to others in their walk with the Lord. Email your testimony to journeylife@verizon.net or visit our website www.journeythroughlifeministries.net (prayer request page).

For Back Issues



Visit our website at:

www.journeythroughlifeministries.net/newsletters



Shoe Boxes for Seniors is an on-going program drive. You can send donations any time during the year for the *Shoe Boxes for Seniors Program*. Checks or money orders can be mailed to:

Journey Through Life Ministries
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Pittsburgh, PA 15235

We are in need of: *Socks; Hats, Scarves; Puzzle Books; Men's Tee Shirts; Travel Mugs; Adult Coloring Books; Pill Boxes; Toothpaste; Tooth Brushes; Sugar-Free Candy and Cookies; etc.* Gift items can be dropped off at our Teaching Facility any Wednesday from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at 10529 Lindberg Avenue; Penn Hills, PA 15235.

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Keys With Power

Rev. Georgetta Head

And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” (Matthew 16:18-19)

■ was ministering with an individual not too long ago who was very angry with her deceased father. She justified her anger by saying during her life living with him, he belittled her, didn't support her financially and didn't participate in her life. This woman's anger is the product of an unforgiving spirit toward her father. Her father has been deceased for many years, but she is keeping him bound in her mind by repeatedly rehearsing all his wrongs in her mind leaving her with bitterness and anger.

Another individual we are ministering with has a fear of people. Her fear is so strong that it keeps her bound in her home. She confessed that she always felt inferior to people and that people were always watching her or talking about her. With further discussions it was discovered that the only approval she ever received from her parents was that of criticism and told repeatedly that she didn't have friends because she could never "fit in" with her peers.

These two stories are sad in that both individuals have wasted many years keeping alive old wounds generated by people who were wounded themselves. Can these people be healed? Yes with God's help!

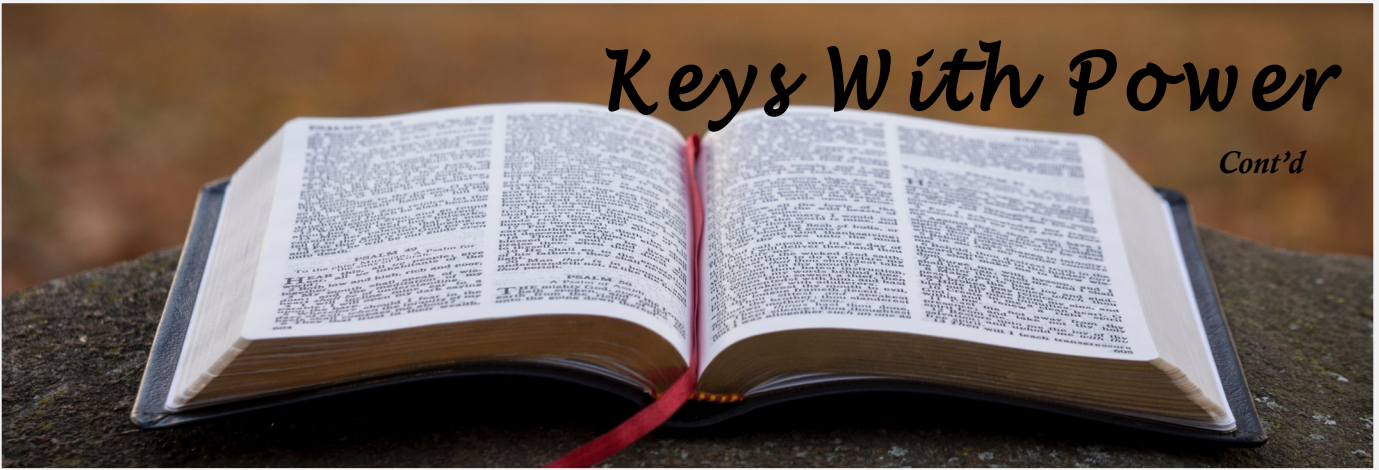
The Bible shares with us keys for living a victorious lifestyle in Christ. In the natural when you look at a key you are staring at a very small object, yet that little key holds the power to unlock a locked door, start an engine in a motorized vehicle, open a treasure box, or that "key" holds the power to destroy destructive habits or emotional bondage. Imagine Father God giving you a key with the power to destroy destructive patterns or behavior in your life! So, today let's explore a couple keys, which I consider very important for a healthy and victorious Christian life:

1. "Key" for destroying the enemy of unforgiveness.
2. "Key" for destroying the enemy of fear.

In my opinion, the "*spirit of unforgiveness*" and the "*spirit of fear*" are enemies that keeps individuals bound in the prison of their minds, which in turn produces and attracts other demonic enemies such as: anger, control, manipulation, compulsive behavior, jealousy, lust, covetousness, etc. Father God

Keys With Power

Cont'd



doesn't want us to be bound in the prison of our minds, especially since He has made provisions for us to be set free in our minds. The keys Jesus has given us for destroying the enemies of unforgiveness and fear is found in Matthew 16:18-19. Jesus tells the disciple Peter *"And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."* And, in Matthew 18:18-19 we read Jesus telling the disciples: *"Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven."*

What is Jesus telling Peter and the disciples? He (Jesus) is the "Rock" from which the Church will be built upon and hell will not be able to penetrate it; and He is giving them "keys!" Keys in the Bible, as in Matthew 16:19, represent *"spiritual authority to open or close gates."* So, Jesus was giving Peter and the Church *"the keys of the kingdom of heaven to bind or to loose"* in the spirit realm anything we ask in His name. In other words, we have spiritual authority to release sin or to bind sin toward others and ourselves such, as fear and unforgiveness. If we choose to keep someone bound by not forgiving them or to live in fear, that spirit is kept bound. But, when we choose to forgive and to not live in fear, we are loosing the spirit of unforgiveness and spirit of fear, setting ourselves free from the prison of our minds. **Note:** to live in fear, is to live in torment, which is another form of prison!

When we harbor an unforgiving spirit against people, many times they are not aware of it, and they are continuing on with their lives, while we are miserable, rehearsing the past over and over in our minds. Jesus has given the Church great authority, which is the power to live a life filled with the "fruit of the spirit," but unfortunately many choose to keep themselves bound in the prison of their minds with past offenses and fear.

Jesus Christ died for every sin ever committed on earth, which includes yours, mine and others. We don't have the right to walk in unforgiveness toward anyone, and we should not allow the enemy to keep us bound in fear. To not forgive is to retain (bind) someone's sin; to forgive is to release (loose) their sin, setting you free to enjoy an abundant Christian lifestyle. God Almighty sent the very best deliverer to set free all captives who choose to be set free from the bondage of any destructive habit or lifestyle. That Deliverer is Jesus, the only Begotten Son of God. Galatians 5:1 encourages us to *"Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage."* Jesus forgave you on the Cross, so, today use the "keys" given to you to choose freedom!

Rev. Georgetta Head



Journey In His Word

Abram - When God Calls!



Today's series will take us on a journey into the life of a man named Abram as recorded in the Book of Genesis chapter 12. This chapter opens with the "call of Abram" (name later changed to Abraham) and through this study of Abram's life, we will discover through Holy Spirit's recordings that Abram was truly a man of faith. Let's begin our journey! Genesis 12:1 opens with Abrams "call." *"Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee:"* When God called Abram into His Kingdom, He gave him four (4) specific instructions:

1. Get out of your country.
2. Leave your kindred.
3. Leave your father's house.
4. I will guide you (Abram) into the land of My choosing.

These four instructions were very important for Abram and very important for today's Believers as follows:

Get out of your country, this is an instruction for Believers to separate themselves from the world. From within our hearts, we are to detach ourselves from the things of this world.

Leave your kindred, this is separation from relatives, such as culture and habits. We are not to isolate ourselves from family, rather separate from old beliefs. True Believers belong to Christ and He wants us to learn His Kingdom culture. He wants first place in our hearts!

Leave your father's house, this is separation from family traditions and family plans. Once again this is not isolation from others! We belong to God and He has a plan for each of our lives to change us from the old man (kingdom of darkness) into a new man in Christ Jesus.

I will guide you (Abram) into the land of My choosing. God would supernaturally guide Abram to his new place of abode. God wants Believers to trust and depend on Him, not on ourselves for life on earth. He wants to give us directions and guidance for our daily walk with Him.

Abram's first step of faith began when he made the decision to answer God's call. After listening to God's four instructions, this had to be a difficult decision on Abram's part for three reasons: 1) in Biblical times family ties were very important because families lived together in close community, they even travelled together; 2) Abram's family of origin practiced idolatry worship in their native country; and 3) Abram resided in a thriving industrious country. What about you? Would you leave your native land? Separate yourself from family and friends you grew up with? Give up comforts you have come accustomed to? How about your culture and traditions? Now imagine the difficulty Abram had in answering God's call. (cont'd page 14)



“About the eleventh hour he went out and found others standing idle. He said to them, ‘Why do you stand here all day idle?’” (Matthew 20:6).

The phrase “eleventh hour” has two meanings: something done at the latest possible time or something done at the last minute. Matthew 20:6 is a verse taken from Jesus’ parable about the workers in the vineyard (**Matthew 20:1-16**). All the hired workmen received their promised reward no matter how early or late they started the job. Some of the men thought it was unfair that those who showed up later received the same wages, but they all received what was promised by the master.

I believe we are living in the eleventh hour in time and like those workmen, Jesus will return back to earth soon to rapture (resurrect) His church and distribute their rewards in heaven (**John 14:1-3, 2 Corinthians 5:10, 1 Corinthians 3:9-15**). We should be watchful and prepared for His return. First Peter 4:7 in the Amplified Bible gives a great example of how to be prepared: *“The end and culmination of all things is near. Therefore, be sound-minded and self-controlled for the purpose of prayer [staying balanced and focused on the things of God so that your communication will be clear, reasonable, specific, and pleasing to Him].”*

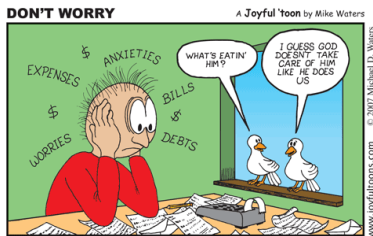
Don’t wait until the last minute to make a decision to accept Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. Jesus could return at any moment. Don’t be idle, but say “yes” to Jesus and be busy doing God’s will until He returns (**1 Corinthians 15:58, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18**). Read page 16 of this newsletter for help in making your decision.

From the book *“It’s About God’s Time”* by Gerry Hickman.



“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they? Which of you by taking thought can add one cubit unto his stature?” Matthew 6:26-27 KJV

Have you ever lost sleep due to worry? You toss and turn all night in bed rehearsing many solutions to your problem, but none seem to be just the right solution to give you a good nights sleep. Then the next day you call everyone you know hoping they will have the answer you need to resolve the problem that kept you up all night, the problem that made you lose focus on the job; the problem that makes you irritable with your spouse and children. Finally, you find yourself so stressed out that you are now ready to throw in the towel with defeat and discouragement.



We are currently living in a COVID-19 Pandemic, which is affecting the entire world and causing many to live in worry and fear. Worry of not being able to pay the bills or rent/ mortgage or the possibility of shortages of food and everything that pertains to daily living. Worrying never solves anything! It only causes stress, which produces many different types of illnesses! Matthew 6:26;28;30 is a great reminder that instead of worrying, we should cast our cares onto the Lord, it reads as follows; *“Behold the fowls of the air: for they sow not, neither do they reap, nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feedeth them. Are ye not much better than they?....And why take ye thought for raiment? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they toil not, neither do they spin:.... Wherefore, if God so clothe the grass of the field, which is today is, and to morrow is cast into the oven, shall He not much more clothe you, O ye of little faith?”* Verse 33 is our answer for worry over life’s adversities! *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”* We need to make God and His kingdom our priority! When we do we become His priority! He will supply our every need! Worrying only produces stress and sickness! By faith don’t look at what you see, rather believe Father God will take care of you. When the Widow of Zarephath had but a handful of meal and a bit of oil, God blessed it to last her for over 3 years. Friends, what little you have God can multiple to meet you and your family’s needs! Use your “key” called faith to unlock the spirit realm of heaven and watch your financially situation change!

Listening for God's Voice!

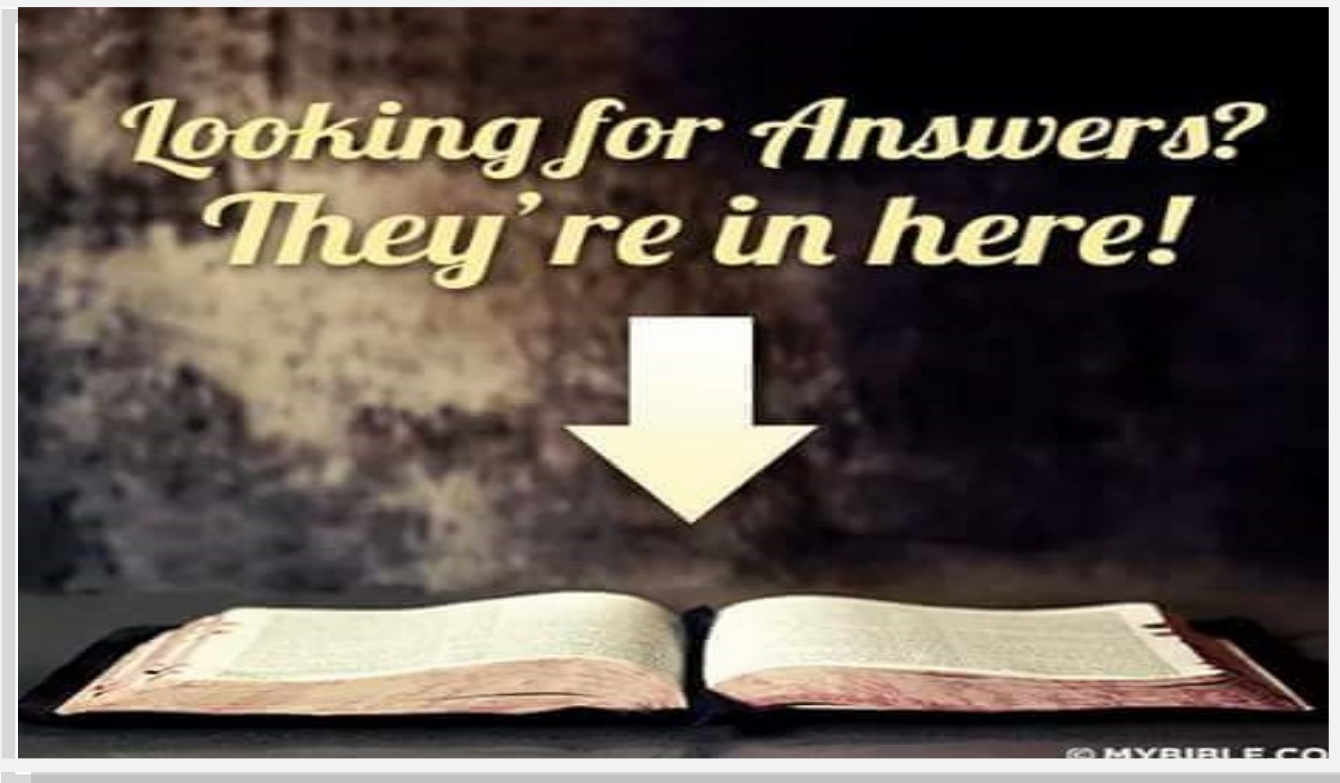


A young man had been to Wednesday night Bible study. The Pastor had shared about listening to God and obeying the Lord's voice. The young man couldn't help but wonder, "does God still speak to people?" After service he went out with some friends for ice cream and pie and they discussed the message. Several different ones talked about how God had led them in different ways. It was about 10:00 p.m. when the young man started driving home. Sitting in his car, he just began to pray, "God, if you still speak to people, speak to me. I will listen, I will do my best to obey." As he drove down the main street of his town, he had the strangest thought to stop and buy a gallon of milk. He shook his head and said out loud, "God is that you?" He didn't get a reply and started on toward home. But again, the thought, buy a gallon of milk.

The young man thought about Samuel and how he didn't recognize the voice of God, and how little Samuel ran to Eli. "Okay, God, in case that is you, I will buy the milk." It didn't seem like too hard a test of obedience. He could always use the milk. He stopped and purchased the gallon of milk and started off toward home. As he passed 7th Street, he again felt the urge, "turn down that street." This is crazy he thought and drove on past the intersection. Again, he felt that he should turn down 7th Street. At the next intersection, he turned back and headed down 7th Street. Half-jokingly, he said out loud, "okay, God, I will." He drove several blocks, when suddenly, he felt like he should stop. He pulled over to the curb and looked around. He was in a semi-commercial area of town. It wasn't the best but it wasn't the worst of neighborhoods either. The businesses were closed and most of the houses looked dark like the people were already in bed. Again, he sensed something, "go and give the milk to the people in the house across the street." The young man looked at the house. It was dark and it looked like the people were either gone or they were already asleep. He started to open the door and then sat back in the car seat. "Lord, this is insane. Those people are asleep and if I wake them up, they are going to be mad and I will look stupid." Again, he felt like he should go and give the milk. Finally, he opened the door. "Okay God, if this is you, I will go to the door and I will give them the milk. If you want me to look like a crazy person, okay. I want to be obedient. I guess that will count for something, but if they don't answer right away, I am out of here.

He walked across the street and rang the bell. He could hear some noise inside. A man's voice yelled out, "who is it? What do you want?" Then the door opened before the young man could get away. The man was standing there in his jeans and t-shirt. He looked like he just got out of bed. He had a strange look on his face and he didn't seem too happy to have some stranger standing on his doorstep. "What is it?" The young man thrust out the gallon of milk, "here, I brought this to you." The man took the milk and rushed down a hallway. Then from down the hall came a woman carrying the milk toward the kitchen. The man was following her holding a baby. The baby was crying. The man had tears streaming down his face. The man began speaking and half crying. "We were just praying. We had some big bills this month and we ran out of money. We didn't have any milk for our baby. I was just praying and asking God to show me how to get some milk." His wife in the kitchen yelled out, "I asked God to send an Angel with some. Are you an Angel?" The young man reached into his wallet and pulled out all the money he had on him and put in the man's hand. He turned and walked away back toward his car and the tears were streaming down his face. He knew now that God still answers prayers. Sometimes it's the simplest things that God asks us to do that cause us, if we are obedient to what He's asking, to be able to hear His voice more clear than ever. Please listen, and obey! It will bless you!

(Author Unknown) Photo by Photo by Denys Nevozhai (unsplash)



Meetings & Workshops

Men On A Journey Fellowship

3rd Saturday Monthly
10:00—12:00 Noon

JTLM Teaching Facility
(Location to be announced)
Penn Hills, PA 15235

Daughter's of Wisdom & Virtue

2nd and 4th Thursday's Monthly
6:00—8:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting
Penn Hills, PA 15235
Cost: Free



4th Saturday each Month
10:00 a.m. to 12 noon
Virtual Meeting
Penn Hills, PA 15235
Cost: Free

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Health Tips

Tips for Healthy Living

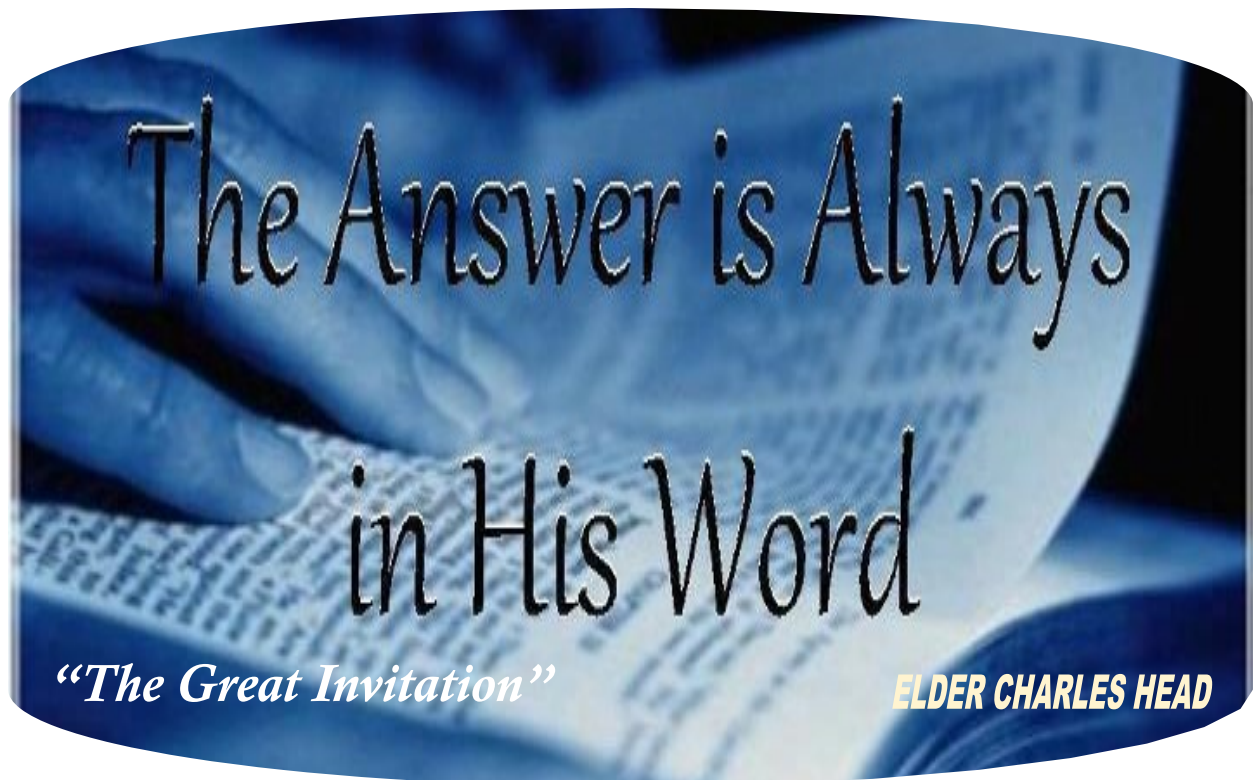
Healthy Living

Rev. Georgetta Head

Do you find your identity with food, the size of your clothes, the size of your body, or how you look? Many see themselves in one or more of these identities which makes them either overeat or under eat. These types of behavior, overeating or under eating, can lead individuals to an anorexic or bulimic spirit (a spirit not of God). This is a form of bondage to our flesh, which is an unhealthy way to live. The Word of God informs us in Galatians 6:8 *"For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."* When our focus is primarily on eating and on our outward appearance (how good we look), we are seeking to satisfy our sinful nature, which is our flesh. This type of behavior encourages individuals to seek out diet pills, fad diets, starvation, throwing up their food, excessive use of laxatives or to become addicted to exercising. Unfortunately, these are consequences of poor choices that eventually leads one to an unhealthy state physically and mentally! As always, humans do have freedom of choice! We can choose to live the way the world promotes healthy choices for food, which are processed made with preservatives and dyes, unsaturated fats and gluten, or we can choose God's way, which is much healthier. Luke 4:4 reads: *"And Jesus answered him, saying, It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God."* A great example of both these scriptures is when God took the children of Israel into the wilderness to teach them His Word and ways. They didn't want to hear His voice! God fed them "manna," Angel's food, which by the way is healthier than any food found on planet earth, and they complained that they wanted the foods from Egypt. The world's food is what they were lusting after! As the world is doing now, the children of Israel rejected God's Word, ways and food.

Food can become an addiction just as easy as any other addiction. Why? Because we often use food as a source of comfort when sad, and to reward loved ones or ourselves for good behavior or for meeting our needs. Overeating or not eating is sowing to the flesh and unfortunately, just like the children of Israel, we will sow undesirable consequences to our body and how we think about ourselves. A better approach when selecting foods to eat is to ask yourself "would Jesus eat this food?" Or, "will this food be beneficial for my body?" Daniel in the Bible did, he refused to eat the Babylonian's food and drinks, choosing to eat fresh vegetables and fruits and water; and it is written that he was healthier than all the young men in his group. Healthy eating honors and respects the body God gave to us! Daniel proved that!

First, stop concentrating on your outward appearance and what other people think about you. Second, make Father God your priority. Matthew 6:33, my favorite scripture says, *"But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added."* Thirdly, surrender those hurts and pains that encourages you to overeat or starve yourself. Have you been abused verbally or physically- give it to God Are you carrying offenses - give it to God. Are you harboring bitterness toward someone - give it to God! Are you feeling lonely and abandoned, going through a broken relationship - give it to God. He will be your burden bearer. Jesus died on the Cross for our brokenness physically and mentally! These burdens are keeping you bound in the prison of your mind causing you to live an unhealthy lifestyle with food, your body weight, and how you look. The choice is yours to make, quit stressing yourself over food and surrender your pain for God's "perfect peace and a healthier you!"



It's time for the world to wake up and come to the Lord. All around us today are signs of God's word of prophecy. Many are living in fear because of all the things that are taking place today. These troubled times affect all of us in one way or another. We are not exempt because we are Christians, "we are in this world but not of this world!"

The difference in the born again Christian's life, compared to those who are not is the "blessed hope of heaven," we don't have to walk in fear, God's covenant with the body of Christ is strength and grace to go through anything we face on earth, with the promise of heaven as our reward. On the other hand, God's Word was spoken prophetically many years ago by the prophet Isaiah. Isaiah 55:6-11 is an invitation to come to the Lord by salvation. *"Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."* The solution for the world's problems today is to put God first in their life, there is no epidemic too big for Him. Even if we happen to lose our life on this earth, the promise of heaven is a promotion, where we will spend eternity with the Lord. Yes, we are to do our best while we are here, through prevention of diseases and other things the best we can, but we can't lose with God's promises.

Paul knew all about this when he stated in Philippians 1:21, "for to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain," meaning, everything we do in glorifying Jesus and making it known, and our purpose after this is to be with Him. This promise is for all who will accept what Jesus has done on the Cross.



*"And Jacob loved Rachel; and said, I will serve thee seven years for Rachel thy younger daughter."
Genesis 29:18*

The Bible records a very unusual love story, which I will call "the love triangle!" One sister desiring to be loved while the other sister is greatly loved by all. Players of this historical story are sisters Leah, Rachel and a man named Jacob, all orchestrated by the sisters father Laban. This story begins at a well! Jacob fleeing from the wrath of his twin brother, was traveling to his mother Rebekah's brother's house. After many weeks of traveling and sleeping under the stars, he finds himself at a well talking with the men of Haran. As he is inquiring of them of Laban, his mother's brother, one of the men says "here comes his daughter Rachel to water the sheep" (Genesis 29:6). As the story continues in Genesis chapter 29, Jacob abides with his uncle Laban. Many days have passed and Jacob is now working for uncle Laban. When asked by his uncle how much his wages should be, Jacob replied, "I will serve you seven years for your daughter Rachel to be my wife." Jacob loved Rachel very much! The Bible reveals to us that Rachel was very beautiful and favored by everyone and that she had an older sister named Leah who was tender eyed (v.17), and not favored. At the end of seven years Jacob asks for his bride! The wedding feast is prepared and a great feast it was, all the men were invited to celebrate this momentous event! Late evening, Jacob lies in the tent awaiting his bride Rachel. Unknown to him his uncle Laban tricks Jacob and sends his older daughter Leah into the tent as his bride.

We can only imagine the anger and disappointment Jacob felt when waking up in the morning to Leah instead of Rachel! Now what about Leah and Rachel! Imagine Leah's thoughts of being given to a man that doesn't desire her, then you have Rachel believing to be married to a man who is crazy in love with her, then at the last moment Rachel is switched for Leah. When Jacob confronted Laban, he replied, "it is not our custom for the young daughter to be married before the older daughter." What deception, why was this not told to Jacob seven years ago? So Jacob had to serve Laban another seven years for Rachel. Jacob finally marries Rachel, whom he loves, and Leah was left feeling unwanted by her husband. There was constant rivalry and jealousy between the two sisters, so God intervened on Leah's behalf because she was unloved and blessed her with six sons and one daughter. The Lord eventually blessed Rachel with two sons. This story is so sad, the deception on their father's part placed two sisters in rivalry with each other for one man. Rachel's jealousy toward her sister for having children led her into anger against her husband and to practicing superstition. Leah's jealousy was directed at Rachel because she wanted to be loved by Jacob, her husband. God being the loving Father, we read in Genesis 29:31 "... *the Lord saw that Leah was unloved...*" God saw the rejection that Leah faced, just as He sees our rejection. As you read chapters 29 and 30 of Genesis, Leah names each of her sons with names expressing her rejection and longing to be loved by her husband. Both sisters should have had compassion with each other because both had been greatly deceived by their father's wrong doing! What a terrible "love triangle!" But, Father God had a beautiful way of working it out in the end!



Journey In His Word

(cont'd)

God knowing Abram's heart, understood that this would be a difficult decision for him, so as we read in Genesis 12:2-3, God tells Abram the future plans He has for him. *"And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed."* All Believers must understand this, God looks at the heart! When God looked at Abram's heart, He saw one of obedience and faith. What does He see in your heart? If God calls you to leave all your familiar comforts and family to follow Him, will you go?

Notice what God tells Abram He will do for him in verses 2 and 3 once he accepts His call:

1. He will make of Abram a great nation.
2. He will bless Abram.
3. He will make Abram's name great.
4. Abram will be a blessing.
5. God will bless them that bless Abram.
6. God will curse those that curse Abram.
7. In Abram all families of the earth will be blessed.

All seven (7) points of this prophetic message, from God to Abram, came about and is still active today. As we journey through God's Word, we will learn this message was meant for the nation of Israel (Old Testament) and the Church (New Testament), which is made up of born-again Believers. So, both Jews and Gentiles that believe in Jesus as their Savior receive these blessings, per the 7th point of the message in verse 3.

In verse 4 we read that Abram was 75 years old when he received his "call" from the Lord God. *"So, Abram departed as the Lord had spoken unto him; and Lot went with him: and Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran."* Abram was obedient to the "calling," he did as God asked. Leaving his father's house, he took with him Sarai, his wife, and his nephew Lot. Many theologians question why Abram took Lot, when God said "leave your kindred," especially since Lot was father to the Moabites and Ammonites, Israel's enemies! (To be discussed more in a later series).

So, taking all that he owned, Abram began his journey with the Lord God as his Guide. Verse 5 reads, *"And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came."* The Lord lead Abram to, what we will learn in Part 2, the Promised Land - Canaan!

What can we learn from these 5 verses:

1. The Lord God does the calling! We have to wait on the Lord for Him to reveal His plans for our lives. Everyone has a calling to be fruitful in the Kingdom of God. Don't get ahead of Him, be patient.
2. God does talk with His children! we have to listen for His still small voice. Distractions drown out His voice.
3. You have a choice! Will you answer the call. God forces no one!
4. All Believers are to separate themselves from the culture of this world. Our culture is Heavenly! Our home is located in Heaven.
5. Whom the Lord calls He equips, provides and guides. God never abandons us. 📌



Men On A Journey

Elder Charles S. Head

"No Shortcuts To Heaven"

Through life experiences, I've learned that many of us want to do things the fast way in order to move on with our fast-paced lifestyle. Whether it's a project around the house or at our place of employment, but in many cases we end up with less quality of work, and the results causes us to do the job over again. Doing things the right way and allowing ourselves to concentrate on the task ahead of us can make all the difference in the end results.

In God's prescribed, order He has laid out a plan for mankind to follow that will lead us to an eternal destiny with Him, but we must first follow His plan and obey His instructions in order to receive all the benefits He has for us.

There are no shortcuts in God's plan, He allows us to make our own choice to where we will spend eternity. There will be many who think that they are going to heaven, but will not make it at the end because they chose their own way of thinking or their own philosophy rather than obey (God's only plan).

Jesus gave us some examples in the Bible found in Luke chapter 13:22-27. Jesus' subject was "*the Strait Gate.*" He took His time teaching through the cities and villages as He journeyed toward Jerusalem. In verse 24 of this chapter He explained the importance of going to heaven on God's terms. Verse 24 says "Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able." Luke 13:25-29 tells us the rest of the story as Jesus emphasized what will happen when we use our own philosophy rather than being obedient to God's instructions.

To define what Jesus is saying, He is teaching these people that, those who think they will get into heaven by their own works will end up (on the outside looking in). Jesus is saying when the door is shut up in heaven, it will be too late for many who thought that their ideas and works were good enough to enter, but not. Our religious works won't weigh in on God's scale because they are man made and not God made. Man made materials are always a shortcut compared to God's principles, when we do it our way we will end up on the outside, looking in, but too late to change at the end of our journey.

**Acknowledge God
In all your
ways and
He will direct
your path.
Prov. 3:5-6**

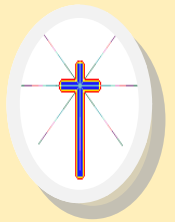


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Believe in Jesus and pray the "sinner's prayer below!

Dear Jesus, I come to you today as a lost sinner. I am asking that you save my soul and cleanse me from all sin. I know that I need help and that I can't save myself.

I believe that you are the Son of God. Forgive me for my sins and all wrong doings I have done to others and help me to forgive those who have hurt me. I believe that you died on the Cross for my sins and the sins of the world. I accept You, Jesus, into my heart as my Lord and Savior.

I confess with my mouth the Lord Jesus, as my Savior and believe in my heart that God has raised Him from the dead and You are now seated in Heaven.

Congratulations!

You are a "new creature in Christ and a child of God!" Now share the "good news" by telling someone else about your salvation.