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Journey Through Life Ministries

OBSTACLES

God Cares for Me

The way I may not
Always see,
But this I know;
God cares for me.

It matters not
What seems to be,
Since this is true;
God cares for me.

Though tempests rage
On land and sea,
I'm safe because
God cares for me.

From doubt and fear
He keeps me free;
My surety this;
God cares for me.

Glenville Kleiser



Have you ever been involved with a project for the Lord as a group or individual and were not able to complete the project because of obstacles?

How about on the job? You worked hard all year and you were expecting a nice raise or a desired promotion only to have a "but" obstacle come at you – "you did a great job this year "but!" Or have you noticed that any time you try to do God's work obstacles happen stopping you dead in your track?

The children of Israel had a similar obstacle challenge them. In the book of Ezra, chapters 1 thru 6, they were given permission by Cyrus king of Persia to restore the Temple at Jerusalem, and all articles of the Temple that were taken away were to be returned to the temple. Many Jews returned to Jerusalem for the restoration of the Temple and it says "they all worked as one to restore the Temple."

As they worked restoring the Temple, their adversaries began creating obstacles by writing letters of false accusations and lies against them – obstacles which

made them cease from restoring the Temple. Has this ever happened to you—people lie on you or falsely accuse you?

As God's children we will always encounter obstacles when we are busy doing His work or being obedient to His Word. These obstacles are from Satan, they come subtly but quickly! He will use your enemies, family, friends, co-workers, or employer to destroy your efforts. Satan creates these obstacles and distractions to defeat us so we can blame God for our problems. But, remember, they are only obstacles and God



can remove and destroy any obstacle, "what Satan meant for bad, God can turn into good."

The children of Israel soon discovered God's favor in their

life through the prophets Haggai and Zechariah. God sent these prophets to speak words of encouragement to them and to tell them to "rise up" and continue restoring the Temple for the "eye of their God was upon them." What wonderful words - to know that the "eye of God is watching over you." As you continue to read Ezra you will see the power of God in action. God turned what seemed like a big obstacle to the children of Israel into a wonderful and prosperous blessing! God can do the same for our lives!

The same power demonstrated by God to help the children of Israel is available to us today. God will never leave us without help. When obstacles come, God will send messengers our way to encourage us. These messengers may be in the form of a Pastor, Christian friend, or as we read the Bible God will speak to us through His Word. These messages come from God to instruct us on:

Discouragement: Discouragement will come, but don't let it stop you, give the situation to God. He instructs us to "Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you" (1 Peter 5:7).

(cont'd on page 4)



FINANCIAL FITNESS—PART 3 "CONTROLLING MONEY"

Part 2 listed four steps to help individuals control money: Organization, visualization, planning and budgeting. We have learned so far that money is a test to measure our growth, our ability to obey and learn, and to establish our rewards for how well we pass the test. In Part 3 we will learn that money is a testimony. Money itself testifies against us if we are not handling money properly. Luke 16:10-12 says: *"He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?"* God wants us to be a living example of His prosperity on our lives – a prosperity that includes both spiritual abundance and financial blessings. As we are obedient to God's kingdom principles on managing money, we will be able to give testimony on how God brought us through financial difficulty because of our obedi-

ence to His Word. Who wouldn't want this kind of testimony?

Now let's get started with Part 3 "Planning and Budgeting." First we need to balance our checkbook. A good steward will always have control of money by knowing the exact amount of funds available for planning and budgeting. Balancing your checkbook does not mean doing a mental inventory of transactions or viewing online banking for "available funds." A good steward will take the time to review his/her bank statements for accuracy and to make sure their checkbook balances with what the bank has recorded. Balancing your checkbook is very easy and only takes 20 to 30 minutes. Now, let's move onto planning!

Planning your monthly expenditures will help you become disciplined and accountable. Using the enclosed form "Monthly Income and Expense Form," fill in Line 1 with all monthly income and Line 2 write in your Tithe. Tithe should be 10% of your income. Now subtract Tithe

from monthly income – this is your "Net Spendable Income." Complete the remaining 12 expense categories by filling out the expense categories for every item you spend money on each month.

Total each category, (ex. Housing, food, automobile, insurance, etc.), this will be your "Total Expenses" for the month. Write this amount on the "Total Expense" line. Complete the "Income Versus Expenses" area by subtracting "Total Expenses" from "Net Spendable Income." Write the total on the line "Difference." If you have more income than expenses, write the Difference on Line 16 "Unallocated Surplus Income." If you have more expenses than income, write the Difference on Line 15 "Monthly Short Fall." Individuals with a "Monthly Short Fall" should seek advice or help from a professional financial coach. Individuals with "Unallocated Surplus Income" should add this additional amount to the savings category. (cont'd on page 5)

God has given us two hands—one to receive with and the other to give with. We are not cisterns made for hoarding; we are channels made for sharing and giving.

Rev. Billy Graham

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Can we go to heaven by doing good?

A. No. We cannot go to heaven by our works or good deeds only. God's Word tells us that Jesus has already paid the price for our redemption through His death on the cross. When we try to earn our way by works we are saying that His redemption was not enough to justify our sin debt to the Father (God). We are saved by Grace not by works. (Eph. 2:8-10)

Q. As a new Christian, where is the best place to start reading God's Word?

A. The New Testament Gospels, Matthew, Mark, Luke and John because it will give you a foundation of Jesus. He is the reason and the way that we are become born again. (John 14:6)

Email your question(s) to: journeylife@verizon.net

Pneuma Center for Biblical Guidance

Join us for worship

- Sunday 10:00 a.m.
- Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
- Friday 7:30 p.m.

704 Sherwood Avenue
Pittsburgh, PA 15204
412-412-3054

Elder Vincent D. Moye, Jr.



Children's Corner

The Virtuous "Teen" Group currently has 9 members and we meet every two weeks. We are being taught how to live by the "fruit of the spirit." After the lesson, each member was asked which "fruit of the spirit" they needed God's help with. The team leader then passed around a plate which held colorful stones with the names of the "fruit of the

VIRTUOUS "TEEN" GROUP - BY ALIYAH SNOWDEN

spirit" carved on each stone. We each selected a stone that we wanted God to help us to become better in the area of love, peace, joy, hope, etc. We all promised to carry our individual stone as a reminder to seek God's help in that area of our life.

In the month of June we attended the Arts Festival Downtown Pittsburgh and then rode the subway to Station Square. While at Station Square we enjoyed watching the dancing water

fountain and getting splashed with the water, especially since it was a hot day. We had a great time attending the Arts Festival and touring Station Square. We had never ridden the Subway, so that was an adventure.

Our next planned activity for the Senior Citizens is scheduled for September. We will be making "ring trinkets" and "card trinkets." Both items will be used to witness to the

Elderly the Birth and Life of Jesus and the gift of salvation He offers everyone.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our group please call 412-731-3450 or email journey-life@verizon.net for more information.



FAMILY CORNER—ELDER CHARLES HEAD

The family was ordained of God to be a heritage from the Lord. The first family Adam and Eve were to be his representative on earth. He also gave them a will to make choices of their own. I have noticed that there is something about man that we are not just satisfied with what God has given us, we choose to use our liberties to go into areas that we are not supposed to.

Man has not changed throughout all the thousands of years since Adam; his methods have changed but his nature is the same until this present day.

When we function as a family the way God intended, our lives will become less stressful despite all the turmoil and uncertainty we have in our society today.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 states "the whole duty of man is to fear (reverence) God and keep His commandments."

It doesn't just stop there. Verse 14 continues with "God will bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or bad." God is telling us that we have choices, we can choose to do good or bad in His sight. Doing good means obeying His Word! Doing bad means doing your own will by rejecting God! Rejecting God has eternal consequences, which means, *if you don't change, your destiny is an eternal hell.*

Ephesians 5 and 6 describes God's order for the family. 1) Husbands are to love their wife as Christ loved the church; and husbands are to function as the leader or priest in the home. 2) Wives are to submit to the husband with reverence and respect as she has submitted to God. Submission is not a sign of weakness, but an agreement of peace between the two that will become a blessing in the marriage. 3) Children are to honor (respect) their parents and to obey them. Why? So that your life will be long upon the earth, and it is God's will for your life.

Did you know that:

Our thoughts are silent words that only we and the Lord hear, but those words affect our inner man, our health, our joy, and our attitude.

God is an expert at removing worthless things out of us while retaining the valuable.

When God calls us to do something, He also gives the faith to do it.

OBSTACLES (CONT'D)

God doesn't want you to be worried and become burdened; He is there to help you! Let go and let God!

Prayer: Pray for your enemy or those creating obstacles in your life. Prayer mixed with faith will move mountains and stop your enemies. ("But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and **pray** for those who spitefully use you and persecute you" Matthew 5:45) God will be the avenger against your enemies.

Belief: Believe in your heart that God is able to do the impossible. ("But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is **impossible**, but not with God; for with God all things are possible." Mark 10:27)

Attitude: Do not complain about the

situation, sometimes God will allow obstacles to come our way to test our faith. Everything we do, we should do as unto the Lord, so whether on the job, at home, at school, at church, or out and about, perform as if you are doing it for the Lord. Finally, demonstrate a positive attitude knowing that God works all things together for good to those who love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).

Friends "rise up" and continue your work, for 2 Chronicles 16:9 tells us that "the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him." What a reassuring statement! God says if your heart is right, He is on the job day and night working out that situation for you, looking for ways to prosper you, ready to defend you, ready to protect you, ready to take care of you, etc.

With God on your side, what more do you need, whom should you fear? Live your life for God, knowing that He has already worked out every obstacle even before it has occurred. God loves you very much and wants nothing but the best for you and your family, for He says: "Who shall **separate** us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword?" Glory in God's love knowing that He's going to work out the situation for you - **KNOWING NOTHING WILL SEPARATE YOU FROM THE LOVE OF GOD!**

God has a plan and purpose for your life and His protection is upon you to finish what He has begun in you. So who will you believe?



CRACKED POT

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole, which she carried across her neck.

One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full.

For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water.



Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments.

But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After 2 years of what it perceived to be

bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream.

"I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house."

The old woman smiled, "Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side?"

That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them."

"For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table."

Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Each of us has our own unique flaw...

But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding.



You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.



FINANCIAL FITNESS—PART 3 "CONTROLLING MONEY" (CONT'D)

Budgeting: Supplies – 13 pocket accordion folder, 13 manila envelopes, and Individual Account Page (enclosed). There are two methods for budgeting – Cash or Ledger. I use the cash method which is much easier and very simple to manage each month. For this illustration we will use the cash method.

If you use online banking or pay bills by check, go ahead and schedule your online payments or make out your checks. Once all required bills have been paid, write a check for the balance left in your checking account. When cashing the check at the Bank, ask for small bills. Bring the money home! If you have a Debit Card, remove the Debit Card from your wallet and LEAVE it at HOME. Debit Cards are just as tempting as a credit card – it tempts you to make impulse purchases.

Now we are ready to divide the balance of your income into envelopes according to

the categories from the "Monthly Income and Expense" form that have not been paid via online banking or by check.

1) Make copies of the enclosed "Individual Account Page." Write the account category name from the "Monthly Income & Expense" on each page for expenses you spend money on along with the designated dollar amount. If you are paid bi-monthly, divide the allocated dollar amount by 2 and this will be the dollar amount you will need bi-monthly, if paid weekly, divide monthly amount by 4 for weekly distribution. 2) On each of the 13 manila envelopes write the name of the account category. 3) Divide money according to amounts written on each Individual Account Page. 4) On the Individual Account Page write the amount you will be depositing in the envelope, put the money and Individual Account Page into the manila envelope and place the envelope in one of the 13 pocket accordion folder. Continue in this manner until you have used all

manila envelopes and placed them in each folder pocket. 5) When you take money from any of the envelopes, write the withdrawn amount on the Individual Account Page. Once you have used all the money in the envelopes you are done until next payday. Spend the money "only" for what it is allocated for.

This is a condensed version of what is taught in my coaching sessions, but enough valuable information to begin managing your finances. If you make mistakes, that's ok – be proud of yourself for wanting to be obedient to God's Word.

One of the greatest testimonies you can have is learning to be content with what God has given you. As you journey through life managing and being content without complaining, God will reward you bountifully along the way by supplying all your "needs and desires" plus you will learn to grow spiritually through obedience.

Send questions to journey-life@verizon.net



Budgeting is telling your money where to go instead of wondering where it went

John C. Maxwell

He who is faithful in what is least is faithful also in much; and he who is unjust in what is least is unjust also in much. Therefore if you have not been faithful in the unrighteous mammon, who will commit to your trust the true riches? And if you have not been faithful in what is another man's, who will give you what is your own?" (Luke 16:10-12)



Helpful Tips on Budgeting:

1. It won't be perfect the first time you do it. It will actually get better after three or four months of consistency.
2. Spend it all on paper before the month begins.
3. If possible, over fund your grocery category. Most people don't.
4. Husbands or Wives (if applicable), loosen up and quit using the budget as a whipping tool on each other.
5. If married, both spouses need to do the budget together.
6. Pray and ask God for wisdom to manage what you have.
7. Learn to be content with what you have been blessed with.

Remember budgeting is a plan. But unfortunately, many people see a budget as a restriction, but as you are faithful you will soon discover that budgeting actually gives you more freedom, because you will now have control knowing where money is being spent and how much you will have to work with.



BIBLE TRIVIA



The Word of Life

1. **When a woman in Bethany poured expensive ointment on Jesus' head, He (Matt. 26:6-10)**
 - a. Said she had done something good for Him.
 - b. Was furious that his hairstyle was mussed.
 - c. Thought the gesture was a waste of money
 - d. Sent her the bill for having His cloak dry cleaned.

2. **Which of the following statements did Jesus make just before he died on the cross? (John 19:30)**
 - a. "It is painful."
 - b. "It is unfair."
 - c. "It is finished."
 - d. "It is necessary."

3. **According to Ecclesiastes, when should you "remember your Creator?" (Eccl. 12:1)**
 - a. In the days of your youth
 - b. When times of trouble come
 - c. As your years increase
 - d. In joy and in sorrow

1. a 2. c 3. a

FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS

For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

(John 3:16)

- | | | |
|---|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. God loves you and offers a wonderful plan for your Life. 2. Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God's love and plan for his life 3. Jesus Christ is God's only provision for man's sin. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God's love and plan for our lives. | <p>Through Him you can know and experience God's love and plan for your life.</p> <p>We receive Christ through personal invitation. Ask Jesus into your life today. Ask him to forgive you of your sins and invite Him to come into your heart and save you. That's all you have to do:</p> <p>CONFESS YOUR SINS, ASK HIM INTO YOUR HEART, AND, RECEIVE THE GIFT OF ETERNAL LIFE.</p> |
|---|---|--|

WHAT WE HAVE IN JESUS

We have **hope** today—not because of our circumstances, but because of **Him** in Whom we trust.

We are **strong** today—not because of our great might, but because of the **power** of the One at work within us.

We have **victory** today—not because of anything we can accomplish, but because of what He did for us **on the cross.**

Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.—
Romans 15:13

God allows people to be tested and endure hardships, but his love for them never diminishes. In the end he is glorified, and they are made more mature.



**Attention All Children
Ages 8 thru 12**

**Sign up for the
2nd Annual Children's Bible Bee
October 25, 2008
Hosanna House—Wilkinsburg
Call Journey Through Life Ministries
to register. Seating is
limited so register early.
Call 412-731-1856 or
Email: journeylife@verizon.net**

Would you like to make a donation to one of our ministries? You can by mailing any size donation to Journey Through Life Ministries; P.O. Box 17968; Pittsburgh, PA 15235. Thank you in advance.

Prison Ministry

- Spiritual Literature Mailed out Weekly
- On-Site Visitations

Virtuous "Teen" Group

- Spiritual Awareness
- Workshops on Personal Development
- Training Skills Workshop
- Field Trips

Financial Awareness

- One-on-One Coaching
- Debt-Free Financial Seminars

PRISON MINISTRY

II Corinthians 5:17 states: therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away, behold all things are become new. The following is a testimony from an inmate who became a new creature in Christ. His name will not be used, but his testimony, in his own words, will be used to glorify Jesus.

I was lost and on my way to hell. Like the Apostle Paul stated, I'm the chief of sinners. I sold drugs, robbed people, committed fornication and adultery. I lived and did as I pleased. I took life, my wife and my children for granted. Eventually my wife left me and divorced me because I became a crack junkie.

I stole manipulated and deceived anyone I could to support my crack habit. I didn't care who I hurt, I just wanted to get high. My crack cocaine habit got the best of me, I needed money, so I robbed a bank. I was arrested in two days.

During my incarceration, I began to realize that sin is what got me in trouble with the law and thrown into

prison. I came to realize that the wages which sin pays is death.

Why do we behave as if there are no consequences for our actions? Why do we live as if sin doesn't exist and that a day of reckoning will never come? I've come to realize that I was dead wrong for thinking that way. Sin is a big deal to God. God doesn't say, well, I'll knock down your charges to misdemeanors and you can walk, or that He will ignore your disobedience this time and look the other way. God hates sin and demands that it be punished. I was sentenced to 5 to 15 years for robbing a bank.

Sin is what got me into trouble and thrown into prison. I realize that I am a sinner, and that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. As for me, once a crack junkie and bank robber, I am now a child of God. I'm using this prison time to develop a relationship with God and help spread God's Word by teaching and preaching to others Christ Jesus came into the world to save the lost.

By: J.R. Once lost, but now saved!

3	4	5	7	1	8	2	6	9
6	8	7	9	5	2	4	1	3
1	9	2	4	3	6	8	7	5
4	2	6	3	9	5	1	8	7
8	1	3	2	4	7	9	5	6
5	7	9	6	8	1	3	4	2
2	6	4	8	7	9	5	3	1
7	5	8	1	2	3	6	9	4
9	3	1	5	6	4	7	2	8

Answer to puzzle on page 8

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

James 5:16

**Journey Through
Life Ministries**

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Georgetta Head, Vice President

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

All articles written and edited by:
Charles S. Head
Georgetta Head

Please submit all comments and church calendar events to: journeylife@verizon.net.

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

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

STRAWBERRY WHIPPED SENSATION

- 4 cups fresh strawberries, divided
- 1 can (14 oz.) EAGLE BRAND® Sweetened Condensed Milk
- 1/4 cup lemon juice
- 1 tub (8 oz.) COOL WHIP Whipped Topping, thawed, divided
- 8 OREO Cookies, finely chopped
- 1 Tbsp. butter, melted

LINE 9x5-inch loaf pan with foil, with ends of foil extending over sides of pan. Mash 2 cups of the strawberries in large bowl. Add condensed milk, juice and 2 cups of the whipped topping; mix well. Pour into prepared pan.

MIX chopped cookies and butter. Spoon over whipped topping mixture. Cover with ends of foil and gently press cookie mixture into whipped topping mixture. Freeze 6 hours or until firm.

INVERT dessert onto serving plate when ready to serve; remove pan and foil. Spread remaining whipped topping onto top and sides of dessert. Slice remaining 2 cups strawberries; arrange over dessert. Store leftovers in freezer.

Calories 220; Total Fat 9g; Saturated Fat 6g; Cholesterol 15g; Sodium 95g; Carbohydrate 32 g; Dietary fiber 1 g; Sugars 26 g; Protein 3 g

PUZZLE

Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that the numbers 1 through 9 appear only once in every horizontal row, every vertical column and every 3x3 mini-box.

				1		2		
6	8	7	9					3
			4	3				5
					5	1	8	7
	1						5	
5	7	9	6					
2				7	9			
7					3	6	9	4
		1		6				

Answer on page 7

Supported Ministries:

Virtuous Women Life
Skills Workshop

Virtuous "Teen" Group

Job Readiness
Program

Prison Ministry

"Shoe Boxes For
Seniors"

Annual Children's
Bible Bee

Financial Awareness:

Debt-Free Workshops
Financial Seminars

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. (Galatians 5:22-23)