

# Hearth to Hearth

Woman to Woman

Vol. 3, No. 2

“And ye are complete in him.” Colossians 2:10

Mar./Apr. 2000

## H E A R T H C A R E

### The Essence of Spring Cleaning

I grew up in a spotless home. It was bred into me to expect clean surroundings. I'm not neurotic about it, but I can't handle clutter and dirt—I *have* to keep my nest neat. (Ask my kids!)

What makes a home beautiful is not so much its price tag as its character. A humble home that is well cared for can be a palace fit for a king—so all of us, from apartment residents to country dwellers, have a potential palace at our command.

Realize, though, the following: If caring for the home makes it beautiful, and we have limited time and money to expend at caring for it, then we need to limit the number of things in the home that need care, and limit the amount of money spent in caring for them. In a word, simplify.

That is the essence of spring cleaning. Simplify your life!

**Step one:** Simplify your possessions. Take two garbage bags; one is the “throwaway bag,” and the other is the “give-away bag.” Go through your house, one room at a time, and ruthlessly extract what you don't use. Be objective. Other than seasonal items, heirlooms and your library books, things should be thrown or given away if they sit unused for two months. Some authorities even say one month. Many charities gladly receive donations of clothes and sundry items. Yard sales are helpful, but if money is not an issue, give rather than sell. It will go faster, and you will be blessed knowing you are helping others.\*

**Step two:** Simplify cleaning products. You do not need all those bottles, boxes and cans to keep things fresh and bright. A good do-it-yourself book\*\* will tell you how to make solutions that will clean everything from windows to toilets to fireplace grates using five basic ingredients:

ammonia, bleach, vinegar, baking soda and soap. [Use ammonia OR bleach; do not mix them. The vapors can be harmful, even explosive and deadly so I have heard. Ed.]

**Step three:** Simplify big projects. Carpet cleaning, window washing, wall painting and other major projects need to be done from time to time to keep the home at its best. Depending upon whether time or money is the issue, you may want to do them yourself or hire someone else. An average carpet costs \$50 to \$100 to have professionally cleaned, while renting a machine costs only about \$25 a day. Painting a room costs about \$25 for paint and brushes, while hiring a professional may cost \$120 or more. Do your research and decide what is best for you.

In 1998 I had the privilege of visiting a missionary friend in Zambia. Having grown up a spoiled, rich American, I was unaccustomed to poverty, but there it was inescapable. For months after I returned home, I could not bring myself to buy even necessary items. Even now I feel that I can't possibly live for the things of this world—for each time I am tempted to squander the money God has given me I feel as if I am standing beside one of my African sisters as she hoes the hard ground with a baby on her back, and returns after her toilsome day to a thatch hut with no running water. The small sums of money  
(Continued on page 12)



Our Mission Statement: Believing that we can find completeness in all areas of our lives only “in him, who is the head of all principality and power” (Colossians 2:10), it is the mission of *Hearth to Hearth* to provide a forum for Christian women to reach out to each other in friendship, with joy and hope; and to encourage each other to find our completeness in Christ as we sojourn here on our way to the kingdom.

## MAIL CALL

[Speaking of Y2K] It was pretty exciting for me because I had been storing up food for over six months and was worried how things would go. Then two nights before the New Year, I was lying in bed and thinking, "Lord, where is my faith?!!!" I prayed for peace within, and all went well until midnight, December 31, drew closer; and again I found myself asking, "Have I lost all my faith? What is the matter with me? Has Satan taken over my life with doubt??" Finally I'd had enough with my anxiety; I took some Melatonin and fell into a deep slumber. I awoke about 1:30 A.M. because—all the lights were still on! I praised the Lord and asked forgiveness for my loss of faith. CA

Thanks for your newsletter. It is a wonderful publication. Maybe I'll submit an article sometime. I've thought of some memories with my grandmother that would be perfect. ME

[Yes, please do submit an article! We are planning to feature "Memories" as a theme for one of the issues later this year and we hope to receive several such items. See "Editors' Notes" page 3. Ed.]

The poem, "Land of Beginning Again," really hit me. It was like God gave it to me, and I think He did. I was feeling Why did I do this, or that, years ago, and If only I'd done different. I can't go back in years but heaven waits, and we will be all new and young with our Lord. AR

[After receiving the packet containing all the issues of *Hearth to Hearth*.] I cannot put into words the sheer joy of reading the first copy! [The Sept./Oct. 1998 issue.] It really ministered to me in so many ways, especially the piece on depression, and [the article about] prayer was a great message especially for me also. I'll confess, though, I am a poetry lover, and I looked for the poetry first! FL

Your publication has been a blessing to me many times, but now I find my time schedule changing, so please remove my name from your mailing list. God bless you as you serve Him. OH

In response to the article, "Hobbies for Temperance," which I enjoyed very much, [*Hearth to Hearth*, Jan./Feb.

## Well-stocked Shelves

The year 2000 arrived amid a lot of fanfare, though calmly and peacefully, by and large, around the world. We heaved a collective sigh of relief and continued our normal routines. Perhaps some of us have not needed to spend much at the supermarket during the first months of the new year since our shelves were well stocked in preparation for potential Y2K problems. We may not need to buy more blankets or warm clothing for a while, and we may not need new candles or flashlight batteries for years!

Now that the scare appears to be over, what should we do? Should we, figuratively speaking, turn over and go back to sleep? I suggest that we consider it in the context of a wake-up call from God, and rouse ourselves to take inventory of the content of our spiritual "shelves." Are our spiritual pantries well stocked? Have we been careful to replenish our supplies of the Bread of Heaven and the Water of Life daily? Do we have an adequate supply of the gold, the white raiment and the eye salve that the heavenly Merchant wants to provide us? "I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment that thou mayest be clothed...and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see." (Rev. 3:18)

"Behold, I stand at the door and knock," Jesus says (verse 20). If we open the door of our heart, He will come in and He will supply us with all the Bread and Water we need; He will make us rich in the gold of pure faith and love, and He will clothe us with His own beautiful, pure white robe of righteousness. He will anoint our spiritual eyes with the salve of clear discernment so that His Word will indeed be "a Lamp unto our feet, and a light unto our path." (Psalm 119:105) O how we need clear spiritual perception in these days when so many voices are crying out claiming to have "Truth." Read Matthew 24 and notice how earnestly Jesus warned against the deceptions of false prophets and false christs.

If our spiritual shelves are well stocked with heavenly supplies, we may face the new year, then a new century and a new millennium (if His coming should be delayed till then) without fear, even with eager anticipation. "Surely I come quickly," Jesus said. May we respond, as John did, "Even so, come, Lord Jesus." (Rev. 22:20)

Grace

2000] I believe that God provided the way for us to maintain the correct balance of work, rest and worship. At creation He established the weekly cycle and Himself rested.

"Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." (Genesis 2:1-3)

"Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters." (Revelation 14:7)

"Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work But the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work." (Exodus 20:9-10a)

Work, balanced with rest and worship, truly is the way of life planned and approved by our wonderful Creator. TN

Please take my name off your mailing list. I am very busy and, sorry to say, don't have time to read your wonderful publication. God bless. NJ

This issue [Jan./Feb. 2000] of *Hearth to Hearth* was very good; something to sink one's "mental teeth" into. PA

I loved the poem "The Land of Beginning Again." It's just the way I feel. Seems like I've made so many mistakes. If I could start over again it would be very different. WV

## EDITORS' NOTES:

» **Moving?** Please notify *Hearth to Hearth* of your new address.

» **Our Cover** depicting a Zambian woman welcoming us to *her* hearth, was done by Miletus McKee who lives, with her husband, in Chunky, Mississippi. She has been an elementary school teacher. Currently her interests include ceramics, counted cross stitch, and working with young people in the Pathfinder organization. She also does tutoring of those with reading difficulties.

» **Congratulations** are in order! Esther, our layout and design editor, and her husband George, became the proud grandparents of Josiah Lynnford Beachy on December 22, 1999. At 9 pounds and 21 3/4 inches long, he was quite a chunk--a very precious chunk! Esther and George are eagerly anticipating the arrival of another grandchild in March, 2000.

» **Ministry of Encouragement:** In the Jan./Feb. 2000 issue we began a "Ministry of Encouragement." It has been well received. By God's grace, we have been able to assist a few people, and we are thankful that the Lord has allowed us to be of service in this way. Please feel free to contact one of the Encouragers listed in the box at right, or contact *Hearth to Hearth* directly. We will assist you in any way we can.

» **Future Themes:** It is our goal to plan the content of *Hearth to Hearth* to appeal to women who are in various stages of their lives. As important as children are, we realize they are not the only members of the "hearth circle," and as vital as the role of motherhood is, all women do not have children in the home! Neither are all women married. Therefore, we plan to branch out a bit and feature articles that deal with other aspects of women's lives. Some of the themes planned for future issues are as follows, though subject to change as the Lord leads:

"**Mothers and Brides**" will again be the focus in the May/June issue but from a somewhat different perspective than last year's issue. If you have ideas, poems or articles, please submit them right away for consideration.

"**Friendship**" will be the theme for the July/Aug. issue. Again, please submit your ideas and any poems and articles that you would like for us to consider using.

"**Memories**" is the theme planned for the Sept./Oct. issue. Please put on your thinking caps, dust off some memories, write them up and submit them! If you are afraid you can't express yourself well enough, submit them anyway, and we will polish them for publication. We will use as many as space and editorial guidelines permit.

"**Our Golden Years**" will be the theme for the Nov./Dec. issue, and in preparation, we would really like to hear from those who have reached that stage in life. Share with us your views on things, your hopes and your fears, your disappointments and your dreams. Yes, we know that dreams are not reserved only for those who are young in years; they are also for the young in heart!

## SPECIAL NEEDS:

» **Interested in country living?** A retired lady would like to hear from a lady or a couple interested in sharing her large farm home in south central Tennessee. There is a year-around fresh-water spring, and garden space is plentiful. There are fruit trees, berries, grapes and asparagus already growing and bearing. A trailer or a mobile home could be placed in a spot overlooking a small lake. (If personalities are compatible, it might be possible to simply share the 4-bedroom home rather than place a trailer on the property.) A missionary-minded retired lady or couple who share this person's goals of being ready

for the return of our Lord and helping others to be ready would be ideal. If interested, please write a letter about yourself and your interests and send it to "Country Home" in care of *Hearth to Hearth*. It will be forwarded, unopened, to the person who placed this special need with us.

» **To parents of homosexual children:** A Christian mother who is struggling with the heartbreak of having a son who is homosexual would like to hear from other parents of homosexual children. If the Lord leads in that direction, she hopes that she and they might form a special "ministry of mutual encouragement." You may E-mail her directly: hannah@I-plus.net or write to Hannah in care of *Hearth to Hearth* (Your letters will be forwarded to her, unopened).

» **"Missing person":** Does anyone know Rita Mott? Barbara Barton is looking for her. Rita and her husband at one time lived in Worcester, MA, but may have moved to one of the western states. Barbara would like to locate Rita and renew their friendship. She would like Rita to know that they are on the same side now! (Barbara is one of our Encouragers; see box below.)

» **Wanted:** The words to a poem entitled "The Cradle, Cross and Crown." My mother told me that I memorized and recited this poem in Sabbath School when I was very small. I would very much like to have the words. Grace at *Hearth to Hearth*.

## Hearth to Hearth Encouragers:

Barbara Barton at 70 FM 101 Rd., Hardy, AR 72542 or call her at (870) 856-4428. E-mail: cen39109@centurytel.net. Barbara is a Bible worker, thus studies deeply; her special interests as an Encourager are in the realms of spiritual encouragement and healthful diet and food preparation.

Pat Kroeger, 7616 E. Manslick Road, Louisville, KY 40228; (502) 239-5489. E-mail: isha@bullitt.net. Pat is looking forward to being an Encourager to anyone whom she can help. She studies her Bible deeply, she is experienced in home-schooling, and she is also an advocate of healthful living.

Marion Landry, 3209 Chewacan Dr., Bakersfield, CA 93309; (661) 836-1320. E-mail: sewfrau@aol.com. She is experienced in home-schooling and would like to assist others in this endeavor. She also can provide recipes for healthful food preparation. She will be glad to encourage anyone in any way she can.

Esther McDaniel, 1420 Johnson Road, Chunky, MS 39323; (601) 655-8813; e-mail emcdan1274@prodigy.net. Esther (a grandmother of soon-to-be 14 grandchildren—six of them step-grandchildren) would like to help and encourage anyone in the areas of divorce, blended families and raising children and teenagers.

Mittisse Westerbeck, 9048 Old Hwy. 16 N, Millers Creek, NC 28651; (336) 973-7165. (She does not yet have e-mail). Mittisse would especially like to encourage those who have lost a loved one; she also would welcome inquiries regarding home-schooling as she too is involved in home-schooling her children.

# Fighting Discouragement in the Spiritual Realm

## My Personal Experience

I know that discouragement can be healed; I have felt the power of God save me from it. I believe this is the only way it can be done. Of course, counselors and doctors tried to help me. They did all they could for me; it just wasn't enough. I needed a miracle, and God gave me one. Believe me when I tell you that Jesus Christ can set you free from the bondage of discouragement.

### Scriptural Promises from God

There are two scriptures that have helped me a lot. The first is my "victory verse," 2 Timothy 1:7: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." Depression and other emotional problems often come from chemical imbalances. Even if it is from your past experiences, it is still classified as a "mental illness." If God gave you all that is in this text, why don't you have it when you get depressed? It is because Satan is a liar and a thief, and he would like to deceive you in any way possible. He will use whatever he can to get you down, and I believe that discouragement is one of his most sneaky and destructive weapons. You don't usually realize what is going on until you are already down and struggling to get back up. Once he knows where your weakness is, he will attack you in that area every chance he gets. He will pull out all the stops to make you as miserable as he possibly can for as long as he can. If at all possible, he will even take your life and destroy your soul while he is at it. That is his goal.

**No matter how low you get, you can get back up... You do not have to suffer in this way, because Jesus has already carried to the cross the burden you are now carrying.**

Satan has given you the spirit of fear, and has stolen your power, your love and your sound mind. You have to take them back! Second Timothy 1:7 is a promise from God. It belongs to you. No matter how low you get, you can get back up. With Christ, you can be better than ever. You do not have to suffer in this way, because Jesus has already carried to the cross the burden you are now carrying. It says so in Isaiah 53:4, 5 (my other favorite text): "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken,

smitten of God, and afflicted. But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed."

I have found that I have a deeper understanding of scripture if I break it down, and look up key words in a dictionary. I enjoy using this method with Isaiah 53:5: "But he was wounded for our transgressions..." "Wound" is defined as "a laceration in the skin, or to injure by tearing, cutting or piercing the skin." This brings to my mind the spear that pierced Jesus in the side while

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He was on the cross, and the crown of thorns that was pressed upon His head. "Transgress" means "to go beyond the limit or boundaries, to sin against or violate." Therefore, He was pierced, in His side and in His head, because of my sins. "He was bruised for our iniquities..." "Bruise" is defined as "an injury that ruptures small blood vessels and discolors the skin without breaking it." "Iniquity" is defined as "the grievous violation of justice, wickedness; sinfulness." Matthew 26:67 says, "Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him, and others smote him with the palms of their hands." "Buffet" means "to strike sharply with the hand." I am sure that this left bruises upon my Savior. These are examples of what He endured because of my sinfulness. I don't know about you, but it tears me up inside to think of Him suffering for me.

"...The chastisement of our peace was upon him." To "chastise" is defined as "to severely reprimand, or to punish by beating." "Peace" is defined as "a state of physical or mental tranquility; calm; serenity; the absence of war; the state of harmony between people." This portion of the scripture tells me that Jesus was beaten so that I could have peace. He not only carried my sins, but he carried my griefs, sorrows, afflictions, and the chastisement of my peace. If I do not try to take advantage of His suffering, why did He suffer? It would all be in vain if I didn't take advantage of what He has given me.

## The Name of Jesus

You must use the name of Jesus Christ in your defense against Satan. Jesus dwells within you, and through the power of His indwelling Spirit, you can take authority over Satan and his forces. These are the words of Christ found in Mark 16:17, 18: “And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover.”

Jesus Christ has been given authority over things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2:9-11) I believe that Satan trembles at the sound of the name of Jesus Christ. Jesus conquered Satan long, long ago. “I am he that liveth, and was dead; and behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen, and have the keys of hell and of death.” (Revelation 1:18) It has already been taken care of. The victory is yours. You only have to claim it—in the name of Jesus Christ.

## The Blood of Jesus

If you have accepted Jesus as your savior, you can defend yourself by “claiming the blood of Jesus” over you; Satan cannot touch the blood. Where there is the blood of Christ he has to flee. (James 4:7) The blood of Jesus Christ is a very powerful protective covering over the children of God. When I think about the significance of the blood, I think first of Calvary; but I am reminded also of a passage in Exodus. The blood of the sacrificial

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lamb was used for protection for the children of Israel when the firstborn of the Egyptians were slain under the tenth plague. “And he shall take a bunch of hyssop, and dip it in the blood that is in the bason, and strike the lintel and the two side posts with the blood that is in the bason; and none of you shall go out at the door of his house until the morning. For the Lord will pass through to smite the Egyptians; and when he seeth the blood upon the

lintel, and on the two side posts, the Lord will pass over the door, and will not suffer the destroyer to come in unto your houses to smite you.” (Exodus 12:22, 23) Notice here that at the door there was blood at the top and on each side—just like the blood of Jesus on the cross.

The following scripture expresses the power that Jesus Christ possesses over evil principalities, as well as the relevance of His death on the cross. “For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power... Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us,... and took it out of the way, nailing it to the cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it.” (Colossians 2:9, 10, 14, 15) Thank God for the blood!

## The Word

Immerse yourself in the Word: “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God.” (Romans 10:17) When you are anxious, sit down and read the Word. It will calm your spirit. It will strengthen you in your God-given spiritual warfare. The more you are in God’s Word, the stronger your weapons will be. You are trying to pull down strong holds, and God has given you what you need to do it. “(For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.” (2 Corinthians 10:4, 5) Dig in your heels and fight with all your might!

## The Power of Praise

There is power in praise. Jesus Christ inhabits the praises of His people. If you make it a rule to praise Him in song when you begin to feel discouraged, He will lift you up without fail. I have experienced it many times! He will meet you in praise just as He does in prayer. After all, He is worthy to be praised. Try to focus on Jesus instead of your problems or discouragement, and He will pull you right out of it. No matter what you are going through in your life, God is still God and is worthy to be praised. “I will call on the Lord, who is worthy to be praised: so shall I be saved from mine enemies.” (2 Samuel 22:4)

It is good to focus on how great God really is, on His power and on the many blessings that He has given you. “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore will not we fear, though the earth be removed, and though the mountains be carried into the

midst of the sea...Be still, and know that I am God..." (Psalm 46:1, 2, 10)

### **Prayer and Fasting**

The spirit of discouragement must be cast out through prayer and fasting. "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would." (Galatians 5:16, 17) When you fast, you become more focused on Christ and more in tune with Him. By denying "self," and dying the flesh, you see more clearly how to have more of Him and less of yourself getting in His way. You become more in tune with the mind of Christ, and

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more sensitive to His Spirit and His voice. Fasting accompanied by diligent prayer is spiritually empowering and helps to increase your faith. God honors fasting and prayer. "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace." (Romans 8:6)

In Matthew 3:13-17 when Jesus was baptized, the heavens opened to His view so that He saw the Spirit of God descend like a dove upon Him and heard God say, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." Next, He is led by the Spirit into the wilderness and fasts for forty days and nights, during which time He was tempted by Satan. The record tells us that He successfully withstood Satan by quoting the Word, "It is written..." This is the most effective way to fight off Satan: fast and pray and rebuke him with the Word.

My prayer when I fast is "More of Thee and less of me." When you are moody and cranky, depressed and anxious it is not Jesus in you. "Me" gets in the way of Him and His will. You have self in the way of Christ because He wants the best for you. It is the spirit of discouragement and the spirit of discord which come from Satan and his forces. (Evil spirits are real. One-third of the angels were cast out of heaven with Lucifer. See Revelation 12:4, 9. How can someone say that God is real, angels are real, Satan is real, but there are no evil spirits?)

Notice that Jesus healed people only after the Spirit of God descended upon Him, and he had fasted. In Matthew 17:14-21 is a story of one healing. The child in need of healing was in really rough shape. Now, I know

that "lunatic" is a strong word, one that always makes me cringe; however, that was the word used in this passage for the mental illness or the emotional problems that plagued this boy. Discouragement can kill, and it needs to be cast out, so please bear with me. This child would fall into the fire and into the water, and the disciples were unable to cure him. The father brought him to Jesus, who "rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour... Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief... Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting."

### **Faith**

Jesus gave His disciples another requirement in the above story: "...for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you." (Matthew 17:20) "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God." (Romans 10:17, emphasis supplied.) Faith that is based on God's sure Word—not on a "flight of feeling"—is the type of faith that Jesus was talking about.

### **The Gift of the Holy Ghost**

Receiving the gift of the Holy Spirit was the best thing that ever happened to me: It changed my life. This was where I found my joy within, and my ability just to live life. It was, and continues to be, a very precious gift. I can now look back at my life and see that my life was a struggle simply because I didn't have the Holy Spirit. It empowers me to fight Satan more effectively because it is the Spirit of Jesus Christ in me.

John the Baptist is quoted in Matthew 3:11 saying, "I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire." Obviously John the Baptist is referring to Jesus Christ in this scripture, and that brings me to Hebrews 13:8: "Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and to day, and forever."

Let's discuss the Day of Pentecost found in Acts 2:1-39. My emphasis here is on verses 38 and 39 which say, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost: For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call." Since "All scripture is given

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# MENDING THE FENCE

“We live in the country, and on my trips to town I drive past fence rows surrounding cows, horses and crops. It is something I see daily but never give any thought to—except when the fence row has a broken or missing post. That is eye-catching! When one post is askew, the ones that precede and follow it seem not quite right, thus making the statement that each post is important to the fence row. All the posts, standing in monotonous conformity, make the fence.

My days sometime seem like monotones, each one coming and going, and before long a week has passed. But if I leave an issue unresolved on Monday, I find it is still there on Thursday. Then I realize why the days in between have been so strenuous; the one “post” that was “askew,” out of alignment, caused extra stress on my “fence”—my week. Seeking peace and guidance from the Lord, I should have repaired the problem on Monday and started fresh on Tuesday. Since I didn’t do that, a lot more than just one day is now in need of repair!

When I allow myself to get out of weeks can pile up, and I begin to notice askew. Life becomes an existence; not of taking a toll on our lives but God serenity in our hearts. Satan is working God has given His Son and His Word, our defense.

Amazingly (or maybe not) the answer found in the Bible. The comfort received of my life: wife, mother, homemaker, friend day I have to review and seek counsel from to do that during prayer; first, I talk, telling God all Him to speak His love, His forgiveness, His understanding to my heart. I love to read the Bible and let each word soak into my mind. Fellowshiping with another believer, witnessing to each other about our experience with God seems to help establish me in my Christian walk, and I grow in courage in the Lord.

These are the devices that each of us can use to keep the fence row of our life straight and strong with all the posts standing upright. Just like the farmer out on an early winter morning checking the fence, I have to review my life daily, using the tools of discipline (self-examination, prayer, Bible study and witnessing) that Christ has given me.

*Sandra Garner*

[Sandra is a full-time homemaker; she and her husband and two young sons enjoy country living in west Tennessee. In addition to Bible study and writing essays, she enjoys camping trips with her family and raising flowers.]

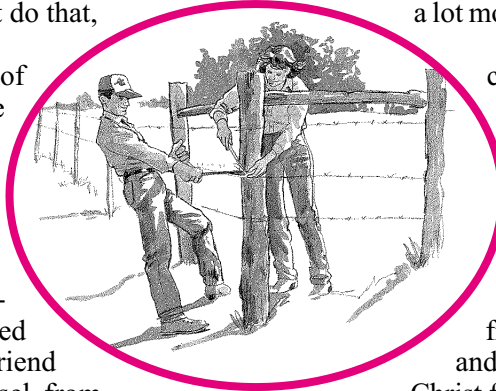
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reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” (2 Timothy 3:16), this text tells me that the promise of the gift of the Holy Spirit is for people today, too.

## The Great Physician/Counselor

Why is it that it seems so much more acceptable to seek physical and emotional care from earthly physicians, and to use medications, than to go to the very One who created us all? In addition to saving my soul and filling me with His Spirit, God has healed my body, my spirit, my mind.

I really wish I had learned all of this a long time ago. The world was unable to give me what I needed to conquer my despair. When I said to my therapist, “I trust God,” he looked at me as if I had fallen off my rocker. I never went back to him after that. I testified during the next church service, and have been quoted many times since, saying, “Can’t nobody fix me like Jesus.” I have never in my entire life been truly happy until now. I



close contact with God, the days or that many of my “posts” are an experience. Satan has a way gives us access to victory and daily to destroy each of us while as well as some other tools, for

swers to all of life’s questions can be from the Bible spreads out into all aspects and community supporter. At the end of each Christ for the right and wrong I have done. I like about it, and then remain quiet for a while, listening for

have deep joy inside. The Holy Spirit has made me yearn to do what is right and to live for God. It has put a deep love for God that is indescribable down in my heart and soul. I thank Jesus for saving me, and for breaking the chains of bondage that held me down for so many years.

Stand your ground! Don’t back down until you have conquered with Christ, for “...we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.” (Romans 8:37) It works! “For with God nothing shall be impossible.” (Luke 1:37)

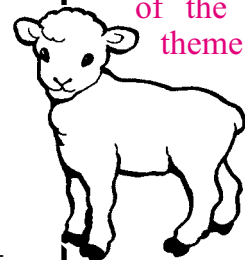
*Kathy McKnight*

[Kathy lives with her husband and daughter in a small town in west Tennessee. In addition to being a full-time career woman and very active in her church, she enjoys writing poems and articles. Both have appeared previously in *Hearth to Hearth*. Another of her poems, which seems to echo the sentiments expressed in the above article, is included in “Hearth Flames” in this issue.]

# WHO IS THIS JESUS?

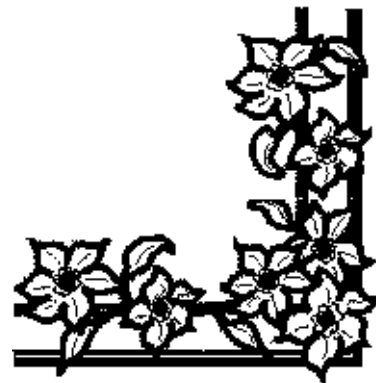
The Bible, from cover to cover, addresses the question, “Who is this Jesus?” Consider the themes of the sixty-six books:

- In **Genesis**, He is the **Creator** and the **Promised Seed**.
- In **Exodus**, He is the **Redeemer**.
- In **Leviticus**, He is your **Sanctification**.
- In **Numbers**, He is your **Guide**.
- In **Deuteronomy**, He is your **Teacher**.
- In **Joshua**, He is the **Mighty Conqueror**.
- In **Judges**, He gives **Victory** over enemies.
- In **Ruth**, He is your **Kinsman**, your **Lover**, your **Redeemer**.
- In **I Samuel**, He is the **Root** of **Jesse**.

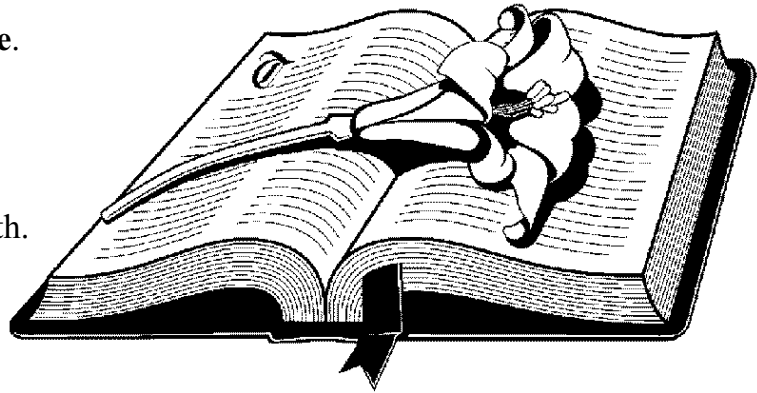
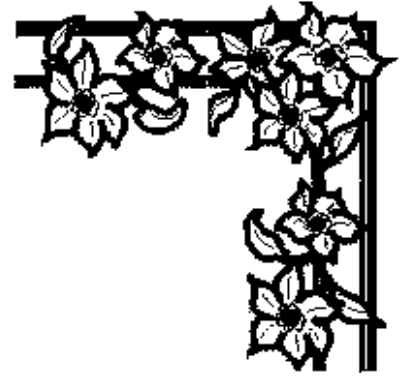


Though it may be debatable as to just *how* Jesus is the theme of every book in the Bible, one thing is certain! Jesus, the “Lamb slain from the foundation of the world,” is the theme of the entire work that we know of as the inspired Word of God—the Holy Bible.

- In **2 Samuel**, He is the **Son** of **David**.
- In **1 Kings** and **2 Kings**, He is **King of Kings** and **Lord of Lords**.
- In **1st** and **2nd Chronicles**, He is your **Intercessor** and **High Priest**.
- In **Ezra**, He is your **Temple**, your house of worship.
- In **Nehemiah**, He is your **Mighty Wall**, protecting you from your enemies.
- In **Esther**, He stands in the gap—your **Deliverer** from your enemies.
- In **Job**, He is the **Arbitrator** who not only understands your struggles, but has the power to do something about them.
- In **Psalms**, He is your **Song**—and your reason to sing.
- In **Proverbs**, He is your **Wisdom**, helping you make sense of life and live it successfully.
- In **Ecclesiastes**, He is your **Purpose**, delivering you from vanity.
- In the **Song of Solomon**, He is your **Lover**, your **Rose of Sharon**.
- In **Isaiah**, He is our **Substitute** and our **Sin Bearer**—**The Lamb of God**.
- In **Jeremiah**, He is your **Balm of Gilead**, the soothing salve for your sin-sick soul.
- In **Lamentations**, He is the **Ever-faithful One** upon whom you can depend.
- In **Ezekiel**, He is your **Wheel Within a Wheel**—the one who assures that dry, dead bones will come alive again.
- In **Daniel**, He is the **Great Prince**.
- In **Hosea**, He is your **Faithful Lover**, always beckoning you to come back—even when you have abandoned Him.
- In **Joel**, He is your **Refuge**, keeping you safe in times of trouble.
- In **Amos**, He is the **Husbandman**, the one you can depend on to stay by your side.
- In **Obadiah**, He is **Lord of the Kingdom**.
- In **Jonah**, He is your **Salvation**, bringing you back within His will.
- In **Micah**, He is **Judge** of the nation.
- In **Nahum**, He is the **Jealous God**.
- In **Habakkuk**, He is the **Holy One**.
- In **Zephaniah**, He is the **Witness**.
- In **Haggai**, He is **Overthrower** of the enemies.
- In **Zechariah**, He is **Lord of Hosts**.
- In **Malachi**, He is the **Messenger of the Covenant**.



In **Matthew**, He is the **Multiplier** of every good and perfect gift.  
 In **Mark**, He is the **Servant**.  
 In **Luke**, He is the **Son of Man**, feeling what you feel.  
 In **John**, He is the **Son of God**.  
 In **Acts**, He is **Savior of the world**.  
 In **Romans**, He is the **Righteousness of God**.  
 In **I Corinthians**, He is the **Rock** that followed Israel.  
 In **II Corinthians**, He the **Triumphant One**, giving victory.  
 In **Galatians**, He is your **Liberty**; He sets you free.  
 In **Ephesians**, He is **Head of the Church**.  
 In **Philippians**, He is your **Joy**.  
 In **Colossians**, He is your **Completeness**.  
 In **I and II Thessalonians**, He is your **Hope**.  
 In **I Timothy**, He is your **Faith**.  
 In **II Timothy**, He is your **Stability**.  
 In **Philemon**, He is your **Benefactor**.  
 In **Hebrews**, He is your **Perfection**.  
 In **James**, He is the **Power** behind your faith.  
 In **I Peter**, He is your **Example**.  
 In **II Peter**, He is your **Purity**.  
 In **I John**, He is your **Life**.  
 In **II John**, He is your **Pattern**.  
 In **III John**, He is your **Motivation**.  
 In **Jude**, He is the foundation of your faith.  
 In the **Revelation**, He is your **Righteous Judge** and your **Coming King**.



From the beginning of the world to its end, there is no place you can look and not see Jesus. He is everywhere. He is everything. "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together." (Colossians 1:17)

**EMERGENCY NUMBERS—(All calls are free of charge!)**

When in sorrow, call John 14.  
 When men fail you, call Psalm 27.  
 If you want to be fruitful, call John 15.  
 When you have sinned, call Psalm 51.  
 When you worry, call Matthew 6:19-34.  
 When you are in danger, call Psalm 91.  
 When God seems far away, call Psalm 139.  
 When your faith needs stirring, call Hebrews 11.  
 When you are lonely and fearful, call Psalm 23.  
 When you grow bitter and critical, call I Corinthians 13.  
 For Paul's secret to happiness, call Colossians 3:12-17.  
 For understanding of Christianity, call  
 II Corinthians 5:15-19.  
 When you feel down and out, call Romans 8:31.  
 When you want peace and rest, call Matthew 11:25-30.  
 When the world seems bigger than God, call Psalm 90.  
 When you want Christian assurance, call  
 Romans 8:1-30.  
 When you leave home for labor or travel, call  
 Psalm 121.  
 When your prayers grow narrow or selfish, call  
 Psalm 67.

For a great invention/opportunity, call Isaiah 55.  
 When you want courage for a task, call Joshua 1.  
 For how to get along with fellow men, call Romans 12.  
 When you think of investments and returns, call  
 Mark 10.  
 If you are depressed, call Psalm 27.  
 If your pocketbook is empty, call Psalm 37.  
 If you are losing confidence in people, call  
 I Corinthians 13.  
 If people seem unkind, call John 15.  
 If discouraged about your work, call Psalm 126.  
 If you find us growing small and yourself great, call  
 Psalm 19.

**Alternate numbers:**

For dealing with fear, call Psalm 34:7.  
 For security, call Psalm 121:3.  
 For assurance, call Mark 8:35.  
 For reassurance, call Psalm 145:18.

Emergency numbers may be dialed direct; no operator assistance is necessary, and all calls are toll free! All lines to Heaven are open 24 hours a day!

**Feed your faith, and your doubts will starve to death!**  
 Pass it on!

# Understanding God's Plan of Redemption

## From Egypt to Sinai—From Slavery to Freedom

Mt. Sinai was smoking! There were deafening claps of thunder, blinding flashes of lightning, the blaring sound of a trumpet which became increasingly louder and, to top it off, the whole mountain was shaking! God had come down upon the mountain and Moses and Aaron were going up into the mountain to meet with Him. The people standing around the base of the mountain could hear the

thundering voice of God; it was an awesome moment and they were trembling! (Exodus 19:16-24.)

Israel was God's chosen nation according to His promise to their father Abraham many long years before. (Genesis 12:2,3) The history of the nation of Israel is a fascinating study and an object lesson of the plan of salvation. In the sidebar below is a brief summary of some of the major events in this history and what I consider to be their plan-of-salvation counterparts.

You will want to spend some time, with the aid of a good Bible concordance, searching out each one for yourself and experience the thrill of seeing what the Holy Spirit of God teaches you.

### Miracles and plagues

God had performed many miracles to free His children from their taskmasters in Egypt. There had been ten plagues designed to show the utter helplessness of the gods of the Egyptians. (Exodus 12:12) The first three of them had fallen on the Israelites in the

### HISTORICAL FACTS AND SPIRITUAL COUNTERPARTS

- » God calling Abraham from the pagan city, Ur of the Chaldees, "unto a land that I will show thee"—the Promised Land of Canaan **parallels** His calling us to leave the "pleasures" of this sin-cursed earth for those of the Heavenly Canaan—a land He must show *us*. (Genesis 11:31 through 12:3; Hebrews 11:8-16; Isaiah 64:4; I Corinthians 2:9)
- » Abraham's two sons, Ishmael—the bondwoman's son "after the flesh" and Isaac—the son of the freewoman; the son "after the spirit"; the "only son" of the promise, **parallel** the two classes of people on the earth today—those who have not learned to trust God to free them from sin and those who have become "dead to sin." (Genesis 16; 17:15-21; 21:1-3; Galatians 4:22-31; Genesis 22:2; Romans 7:24, 25; 8:17)
- » Abraham sent to a far country, to his own kindred, to arrange for the marriage of Isaac to Rebekah. This **parallels** the fact that God has sent to a far country to arrange for the marriage of His Son to those who are of His family; to those who are willing to go to a distant land to become His bride. (Genesis 24; Matthew 22:1-14; 25; Luke 12:36-40; II Corinthians 11:2; Ephesians 5:25-33; Colossians 1:24-29; Revelation 19:7-9; 21 & 22)
- » Isaac's twins: Esau, who despised his birthright and sold it for a mess of pottage and Jacob who had been promised the birthright, coveted it, and tried to obtain it by works rather than through faith (he finally *did* obtain it after reconciling with Esau and wrestling with the angel). **Today** there are those who despise their birthright—the gift of salvation and eternal life that God has promised—and those who appreciate the birthright, but seek to obtain it through their own works rather than receiving it as a gift from God. (Genesis 25:21-34; 27:1-29; 32 through 33:15; Matthew 26:14-25; 5:5; 19:29; 25:34; Romans 8:17; I Peter 2:4-10; Isaiah 1:21; Matthew 7:21-23; Revelation 21:7)
- » Jacob's name being changed to Israel (which is how his children came to be called Israelites) **parallels** God giving a new name to those who are His. (Genesis 32:28; Revelation 2:17)
- » Joseph, the favored son of Jacob (given a "coat of many colors" by his father) and his jealous brothers who hated and tormented him, **parallel** God's "favored" people who are covered with the robe of Christ's righteousness and those who reject God and are jealous and tormenting toward them. (Genesis 37; Acts 14:1-6; Psalm 56)
- » The sale of Joseph to the Midianites, his faithfulness to God while a foreigner in their land and God's blessings upon him **parallels** the fact that we have been "sold into sin" by our father Adam yet as "pilgrims and strangers," we can live victoriously in the "Egypt" of this world and God will bless us. (Genesis 37:26 through 41:46; Hebrews 11:13; I Peter 2:11; Revelation 2:10; 11:8; Matthew 5:3-12; 7:11; 17:20; Luke 17:6; II Corinthians 10:4 & 5; Ephesians 6:10-18; Romans 5:2-5; Romans 9:30-33; Galatians 2:16; Ephesians 2:8, 9)
- » God's care over Jacob and his remaining, rebellious sons; His faithfulness in bringing his sons to repentance and restoring them to favor **parallels** His longsuffering toward us today. (Genesis 42:1 through 45:8; Jeremiah 31:3; II Peter 3:9)
- » God's providence in caring for His nation of ancient Israel throughout the famine **parallels** His promised care for his nation of spiritual Israel today. (Genesis 41:39-57; 45:8 through 47:27; Psalm 23:91; Isaiah 33:16)
- » The new king who arose and "knew not Joseph," Israel's subsequent bondage to him, and ultimate deliverance—30 years in Egypt as free men and 400 years of bondage—**parallels** Satan's usurpation of authority over this earth when Adam sinned, his deadly hatred for God's people, and God's promise to deliver us not only from his control over us here and now, but ultimately from his presence. (Exodus 1:8-22; Genesis 15:13-16; Exodus 12:40, 41; Matthew 4:8-10; John 12:31-32; Romans 5:12; 6:16-18; Revelation 12:9; 19:20; 20:10)
- » God promised to bring Israel out of Egypt at a specific time and He fulfilled that promise on the very day. **God has promised to bring us** out of this sin-cursed world at His appointed time and we can be confident that He will fulfill His promise in every respect. (Genesis 15; 13-16; Psalm 25:13; Isaiah 65:17; Matthew 24:36; I Thessalonians 4:13-18; Revelation 21 & 22)

land of Goshen as well as on their Egyptian neighbors, but the seven “last” plagues fell only on the Egyptians. (Exodus 7:14-8:24; compare Revelation 15; 16; 21:9)

There are many lessons that can be learned from the study of each one of the plagues, but the last one, which resulted in the establishment of the feast of Passover, is especially rich in symbolism. It was this feast that Jesus and His disciples celebrated the night He was betrayed by Judas. At that time He instituted the “Lord’s Supper” or “communion” in commemoration of His death and to replace the Passover lamb which pointed *forward* to His death. Then He said he would not drink again of the “fruit of the vine” until He drinks it “new” with us in His Father’s kingdom! (Matthew 26:29; Mark 14:25) Think of it! He is denying Himself that pleasure in anticipation of sharing it with us! Is *our* anticipation as keen?

### Deliverance

When the time was drawing near for their deliverance, God told His people to “borrow” (ask, NKJV) from the Egyptians. Then He gave them so much favor in the eyes of the Egyptians that they gave them whatever they asked, and it is recorded that they “spoiled” the Egyptians (Exodus 11:2,3; 12:35,36) in fulfillment of God’s promise recorded in Genesis 15:14 that “afterward shall they come out with great substance.” Their plunder, which included “jewels of silver, and jewels of gold, and raiment,” furnished the necessary means for their wilderness sojourn as well as the materials for the sanctuary that God asked them to build.

The children of Israel had gone into Goshen as free men. There God had blessed them, and they had multiplied until they became a threat to the Egyptians who consequently oppressed and enslaved them; yet God saw to it that they received their just wages in the end! Even so, when God redeems His people from this world of sin, they shall receive their reward! (Matthew 16:27; I John 2:25; Revelation 21:7) Isn’t God good!

The Passover meal had been eaten with their loins girded, shoes on their feet, staff in their hand, and “in haste.” When Pharaoh issued his decree and

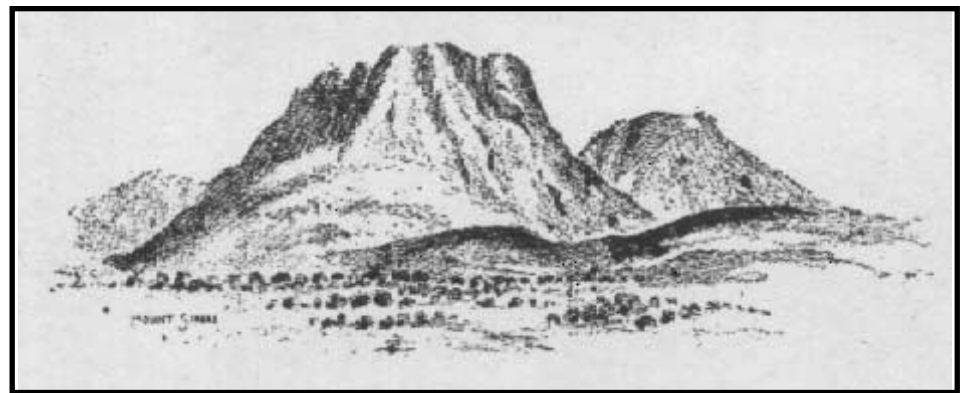
they were “thrust out” in the very early morning hours, they were ready to go! Yet they did not leave in a disorderly fashion. The Bible says they “went harnessed” (in orderly array, Moffatt; in orderly ranks, NKJV). (Exodus 13:18) Think of it! Somewhere in excess of two or three million people, along with all their “flocks and herds” (Exodus 12:38) equaling thousands, maybe even millions of animals, all leaving at once yet going out decently and in order as God wants all things to be done. (I Corinthians 14:40)

[See the sidebar on page 12 for an idea of the logistics of this undertaking.]

### Convocation at Sinai

After traveling a roundabout way and experiencing the miracle at the Red Sea, God brought them to Mount Sinai, in the third month, where they “camped before the mount.” (Exodus 19:2) The first two days were spent washing their clothes and sanctifying themselves (Exodus 19:10,14) in preparation to meet with God, who was to come down upon the mountain in a thick cloud and speak His law to them. (Exodus 19:9; Deuteronomy 4:10-13)

That is how it happened that the mountain was shaking and the people were trembling. They did not *know* this God who had worked so many miracles



in their behalf to bring them out of bondage. Certainly they knew *of* Him. They had heard many times of God’s promises to their father Abraham, but while in slavery they had forgotten Him. They had neglected to keep the lines of communication open between themselves and God. (Do you see any parallels with our experience while in bondage to sin?) But Moses knew Him! Moses went right up into that smoking, shaking mountain to meet with His God.

Much could be said about the giving of the law and the immediate breaking of it through the shameful experience of the golden calf, but space does not permit except to say that God, in His great mercy, allowed Moses to cut out another set of stone tablets on which He again wrote His invincible law with His own finger. God’s love, long-suffering and mercy are the same today!

### God’s plan for a sanctuary

The portion of the story that is of primary interest to us in our study, however, is the instructions God gave to Moses regarding the building of the sanctuary that He might “dwell among them” (Exodus 25:8) and the fact that this sanctuary was “a *shadow* of heavenly things.” (Hebrews 8:1-5) If you turn in your Bible and read the account in Exodus chapters 25 through 31, you will surely be impressed with the exactness of the details that were given to Moses regarding this important task. God did not leave out a single small detail!

He also reminded Moses to be sure to make everything according to the pattern he had been shown while in the mountain. (Exodus 25:9,40; Numbers 8:4; Hebrews 8:5) God did not want *us* to miss one little lesson that we might glean from a diligent study of this ex-

perience, and He has promised that when we put ourselves to the task of studying His Word, with the right attitude (John 7:17), His Spirit will guide us into *all* truth! (John 16:13)

The next issue of *Hearth to Hearth* will bring to you another fascinating aspect of the Hebrew sanctuary and its relationship to the plan of salvation. Until next time, happy studying, and God bless you!

*Esther McDaniel*

## THE LOGISTICS OF THE EXODUS

[Following are some mathematical calculations (the accuracy of which has not been verified) that someone has made, based on an estimated 3-1/2 million people in the exodus of Israel from Egypt. Certainly most of the 600,000 men had wives and families—and many, no doubt, had large families, and in addition to these families there was a “mixed multitude” that went out with them; thus that figure could even be a conservative one. Also, there is no mention in this account of all the animals that went along with them. At any rate, this will give us some idea of the magnitude of the practical aspects of their flight and subsequent journey, and what a daunting (even impossible) envisagement it would have presented without the divine intervention of our all-powerful Creator God. Ed.]

Do you think that Moses sat down and figured out the logistics of what God told him to do before he set out from Egypt with the liberated Israelites? If he thought about it even a little bit it shows how much faith He must have had in God to take care of everything. The very same God is at work today in our lives!

Consider that Moses led everyone across the Red Sea in one night. Scripture records that there were about 600,000 men on foot besides women and children. This could mean that there were close to 3-1/2 million people. Now if they went on a narrow path, double file, the line would be 800 miles long and require 35 days and nights to complete the crossing. So, to accomplish it in one night there had to be a space in the Red Sea about 3 miles wide so that they could walk 5,000 abreast.

Moses led the people of Israel into the desert. Now what was he going to do with them? They had to be fed, and feeding 3-1/2 million people requires a lot of food. According to the U. S. Army's Quartermaster General, Moses would have needed 1500 tons of food a day, filling two freight trains, each a mile long. Besides, you must remember, they would want to cook the food, which would require 4000 tons of firewood. They would also need firewood for keeping warm (and if anyone tells you it doesn't get cold in the desert don't believe them!). So add a few more freight trains, each a mile long, filled with wood for fires for warmth—and this is only for one day!!! And they were forty YEARS in transit!!! But God miraculously provided manna for His people to eat, just enough each day for that day. God can supply our needs too.

Let's not forget about water, shall we? If they only had enough to drink and wash a few dishes (no bathing or laundry?!), it took 11,000,000 gallons EACH DAY—enough to fill a train of tanker cars 1800 miles long. And, think about this: every time they camped at the end of the day, a campground of 750 square miles—more than half the size of Rhode Island—was required.

Let's trust in God as Moses did. Let's have courage as we face our “impossible” events in life.

*From the Internet. Author unknown*

(Continued from page 1)

I save could buy her children a set of clothes or a Bible. How can I live for myself in the midst of such need? How can I surround myself with the frivolities of life when there is also a worldwide need for the Word of God? I believe God has called each of us to simplify our lives that we might be able to enrich someone else's. We see the overwhelming problem of world poverty and ask, “How can I make a difference?” but God's question to us is, “How can you not?”

### A Few Tips:

Make your own window cleaner. Take one cup household ammonia, one cup rubbing alcohol, and one cup water; mix in a spray bottle.

To prevent grain moths, put all whole grain cereals in glass jars or the freezer. Cola that has gone flat can be poured into the toilet bowl and left for an hour. It will clean the bowl. Considering what it might therefore do to your stomach, you may want to pour all cola into the toilet, flat or not.

Cover less than cosmetically perfect refrigerators with cork board obtained from a craft store, and cover the board with pictures of family, or those depicting God's wonderful works of creation.

### \*Give your surplus:

Bibles to: Lightbearers Ministry, 11 Ministry Place, Malo WA 99150. Lightbearers will also take books by E. G. White and send them to third world countries where they are desperately needed. A small to medium box of books will only cost about \$10 if sent “book rate” through the US post office. Mark the boxes “used books.”

Clothing and other household items (all clean and in good condition) to the local Salvation Army or Goodwill Industries stores, which can be found in the Yellow Pages.

### \*\*Recommended resources:

Books by Heloise, Putnam Publishers; phone 1-800-788-6262.

*10,000+ Practical Hints and Tips*, Publications International, Ltd. Available at Wal-Mart, this book contains recipes for most cleaning compounds.

*Jennifer Jill Schwirzer*

[Jennifer is married with two daughters, 11 and 13. Although her family is her primary focus, she also runs “Michael Ministries,” a non-profit (literally) music and seminar ministry. She writes frequently for various publications and has written a book entitled, *Testimony of a Seeker*, published by Pacific Press. You may contact her directly: Jennifer Jill Schwirzer 145 Thompson Ave., Putnam, CT 06260. E-mail: jennifer.schwirzer@snet.net.]

# The Power of Words

## Speaking in the Spirit!

“Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.” (Psalm 19:14)

Speaking in the Spirit is a subject that is not stressed enough in our Christian lives. This is not “speaking in tongues,” this is using our words in obedience to God! How many times have you been deeply hurt by someone’s words to you? Words, good and bad, can leave a lasting impression!

In marriage, many a partner has said the cruelest of words to the other in a moment of anger, and found, when the “crisis” was over, the words remained. How many children spend their lifetime trying to get over “nasty words” spoken to them by their parents. My

**Sometimes a word spoken at the most inopportune moment will leave a lifelong scar on your mate, your children, or anyone else who is at the receiving end of a “vicious” word.**

friends, words hurt; sometimes a word spoken at the most inopportune moment will leave a lifelong scar on your mate, your children, or anyone else who is at the receiving end of a “vicious” word.

When we speak “in the Spirit,” our speech is in “the Word of God”! When you are not “in the Spirit,” you will say whatever you want! So what exactly is “speaking in the Spirit”? The best way to check your speech is to review the “fruit of the Spirit”! Galatians 5:22-23: “But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

The Christian lifestyle is meant to be one filled with the “Spirit”! But, it is this battle that must be fought every day. Unfortunately, human nature makes us tempted to be “sinful,” and fall into the “flesh.”

What is “in the flesh”? It is those WORDS and DEEDS that are in direct contrast to the “Spirit.” Hatred, envying, jealousy, anger, evil, impatience, etc., etc. (See Galatians 5:19)

J. R. Caldwell wrote: “I find that the greatest hindrance to the Gospel and the greatest hindrance to many precious truths taking effect in the hearts and consciences of unbelievers is the un-Christlike lives of those who profess the truth.” Oh, give me a hundred people that are making it the business of their lives to be “like Christ”—reading His Word and crying to God to

show them the right way—and I will show you a place where there will be permanent blessing.

Are you faced with one of those days, where it seems everything around you is in confusion? Don’t fall into the temptation to “get even” with your spouse, your children, your co-workers, your boss, etc., if you feel wronged! If you feel a confrontation coming up, stop yourself! Don’t say anything! If you feel yourself ready to react badly, get to a place where you can pray for the help you need. “Dear Lord, I’m at my end. I don’t know the answer here. I can’t handle this situation and I need Your help. Help me to not speak of my own will. Help me to speak in Your words, Lord. Let my heart soften before I speak. Help me find the way to speak in Your love. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.”

Another way to help you “speak in the Spirit” when faced with a situation where you have been hurt, is to say the Lord’s Prayer as many times as necessary, until you can get through the entire prayer without hesitation. This is a great deterrent from speaking “in the flesh”! Sometimes, it could mean saying this prayer 10 or 20 times, just as many as it takes before you can say the entire prayer without your mind wandering. What a calming effect it has! You can become refocused before you are tempted to take things into your own hands! The answer always comes when you are calm and at peace! It is at that moment you can get back to speaking in the Spirit!

Allow your words to convey the message of Jesus, even when you feel hurt! Allow your words to give peace, hope, encouragement, and love each and every

**Allow your words to give peace, hope, encouragement, and love each and every time you speak!**

time you speak! Your own heart will soften as you cultivate your words in “the Spirit.”

When we are in obedience to God, the Holy Spirit lives within. Take the time each day to meditate with God and pray to have the Holy Spirit guide your thoughts and your words. Reviewing the “fruit of the Spirit” each and every day will help to remind you of your walk. Let God do His talking through you! Let Him say what needs to be said. As you learn to allow the Spirit to direct and influence your life, you will destroy the power of sin. Your life will be blessed forever!

(Continued on bottom of next page.)

# Which Side Are You On?

“Then Moses stood in the gate of the camp, and said, ‘Who is on the LORD’S side?’” Ex. 32:26.

While the children of Israel were camped before Mount Sinai, Moses was called up into the mountain to meet God. During his absence of forty days, the people reverted to the pagan practice of worshipping a golden calf. Warned of their sin and gluttonous reveling and fearing that in His anger the Lord would consume Israel, Moses hastily descended to the camp. After rebuking his unreliable brother Aaron for allowing this iniquitous exhibition, Moses seized the gilded image and hurled it into the fire. Then, turning to the multitude, he cried out, “Who is on the Lord’s side? Come here to me!” The great majority of the vast assemblage responded. Those who refused to take their stand on God’s side were slain.

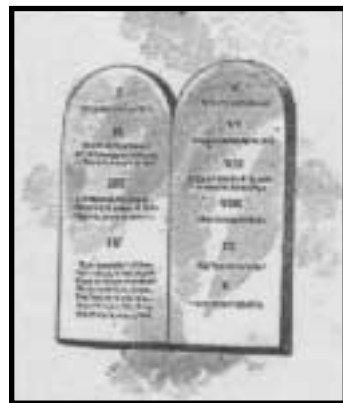
Not many are called upon to choose so swiftly and dramatically whether or not to serve God. Yet by means of His just and inflexible requirements, the Almighty is continually testing the quality of everyone’s loyalty to Him. Every mind is endowed with the power to discriminate between right and wrong. Daily the will must determine whether or not to obey God’s commandments.

Once a deaf mute was asked by friends why he attended church so faithfully, “So,” he replied in sign language, “people will know whose side I am on.” As the end of time draws nearer, more and more people will be deciding day by day whose side they are on. At last, just as at Sinai, there will be only two sides—the Lord’s and Satan’s. The decision on this great question is the most momentous any person will ever make.



Do you want to make certain that you stay on the Lord’s side? Here are seven helpful suggestions provided recently by a veteran minister:

1. Decide that you will stay with God come what may.
2. Learn to believe your beliefs and doubt your doubts.
3. Be confident and positive in your trust in God.
4. Determine that you will be a working Christian. Keep in mind that you don’t have to be church employed to be a successful soul winner.
5. Read and study your Bible faithfully.
6. Know where you stand and why.
7. Keep your eyes fixed upon Jesus. Make Him your Friend, your Example, and your Guide.



*Floyd O. Rittenhouse*

[From *Show Me Thy Ways*, Copyright 1983 by the Review and Herald Publishing Association.]

(Continued from previous page.)

## Death of Life in Words

A careless word may kindle strife,  
 A cruel word may wreck a life;  
 A bitter word may hate instill,  
 A brutal word may smite and kill,  
 A gracious word may smooth the way,  
 A joyous word may light the day;  
 A timely word may lesson stress,  
 A loving word may heal and bless.

[Selected from *Knights Master Book of New Illustrations*.]

## A Prayer to Speak in the Spirit:

Heavenly Father, thank you for dwelling inside me today. Thank you for the countless blessings You have bestowed upon my life. Help me to walk in Your Spirit, Father.

Help me to understand the power of my words. Help me say only those things today that will foster love, hope and peace in whomever I come into contact with. Let me shine as Your example of a good Christian soldier. Allow me to speak only those words that will bring joy into the lives that I touch today, Father. Let me fill my family with love, kindness and patience just as Your Son would if He were standing right here beside me.

I thank you also for Your patience and love You give to me every day, even when I sometimes don’t deserve it, Father. Thank you for being there for me when I need You, and thank you for Your Spirit which I hold in my heart forever. In Jesus’ name I pray, Amen.

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# God's Glory



I wish for a road that is sunny and clear,  
 Filled with God's blessings and friends who are dear.  
 I wish for blue skies and fields filled with flowers,  
 Fragrance and colors to last through the hours.  
 It happens, I like a mist on my face,  
 'Tis a way to enjoy Heaven's embrace.  
 Most of all I'm enthralled by a soft, silent snow,  
 That dances from Heaven setting hearts all aglow.  
 I will always remember the joy and the glee  
 I feel in my soul as God gives these to me.

*James Joseph Huesgen*

## Rest in My Love

Why are you always running so,  
 From morning until night?  
 It is by my Spirit,  
 Not by your own might.

Be still, my child, be still,  
 Be careful of your choice;  
 When you're always on the go,  
 Can you really hear my voice?

You may become weak,  
 Going as you are;  
 Listen when I say,  
 "From me, you are too far."

Remember to slow down,  
 When push comes to shove.  
 Slow down along your way  
 To rest in My love.

*Kathy McKnight*



## The Critic

A little seed lay in the ground  
 And soon began to sprout.  
 "Now, which of all the flowers around,"  
 It mused, "shall I come out?"

"The lily is so fair and proud,  
 But just a trifle cold;  
 The rose, I think, is rather loud,  
 And then its fashion's old.

"The violet—it is very well,  
 But not a flower I'd choose,  
 Nor yet the Canterbury bell—  
 I never cared for blues."

And so it criticized each flower,  
 This supercilious seed,  
 Until it woke one summer hour,  
 And found itself a WEED!

*Selected*

# Hymn for a Household

Lord Christ, beneath thy starry dome  
 We light this flickering lamp of home,  
 And where bewildering shadows throng  
 Uplift our prayer and evensong.

Dost thou, with heaven in thy ken  
 Seek still a dwelling place with men,  
 Wandering the world in ceaseless quest?  
 O Man of Nazareth, be our guest!

Lord Christ, the bird his nest has found,  
 The fox is sheltered in his ground,  
 But dost thou still this dark earth tread  
 And have no place to lay thy head?

Shepherd of mortals, here behold  
 A little flock, a wayside fold  
 That wait thy presence to be blest—  
 Man of Nazareth, be our guest!

*Daniel Henderson*



# MY JOURNEY

*There is a place where I desire to go  
Far, far from this place  
I'm on a journey that will take me where  
I can behold the Father's face*

*And find...  
Peace, like a river in the valley of my soul  
Peace on the mountain, flowing gently from His throne*

*It's not about the riches to be found  
Or life without end  
It's all about the Ones I know are there  
My Father and my Friend*

*They bring...  
Peace, like a flower swaying softly in the breeze  
Peace as an eagle soaring over a blue sea*

*Can't we see we have it all so wrong  
It's not even streets of gold  
Heaven is God and His Son  
And love They want us to behold*

*Where there's...  
Peace, like a new babe, cuddled, sleeping quietly  
Peace past understanding, accepting humbly*

*My Father and my Friend  
This is where my journey ends*

*Pat Kroeger*

[Pat wrote this song in October of 1999.]

*Hearth to Hearth* is published bi-monthly and sent free upon request. Voluntary donations are appreciated. Managing Editor: Grace Cox, 68 Skiff Barton Rd., Trenton, TN 38382, (901) 855-4805, [hearth@iswt.com](mailto:hearth@iswt.com); Layout & Design Editor: Esther McDaniel; Contributing Editor: Pat Kroeger. Printed by Smyrna Gospel Ministries.

*Hearth to Hearth*

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