

RANDY ALCORN | DR. JAMES MACDONALD | LENYA HEITZIG | H.C.G. MOULE

Connection

the magazine

TURNING TRIALS
to triumph
SKIP HEITZIG p. 6

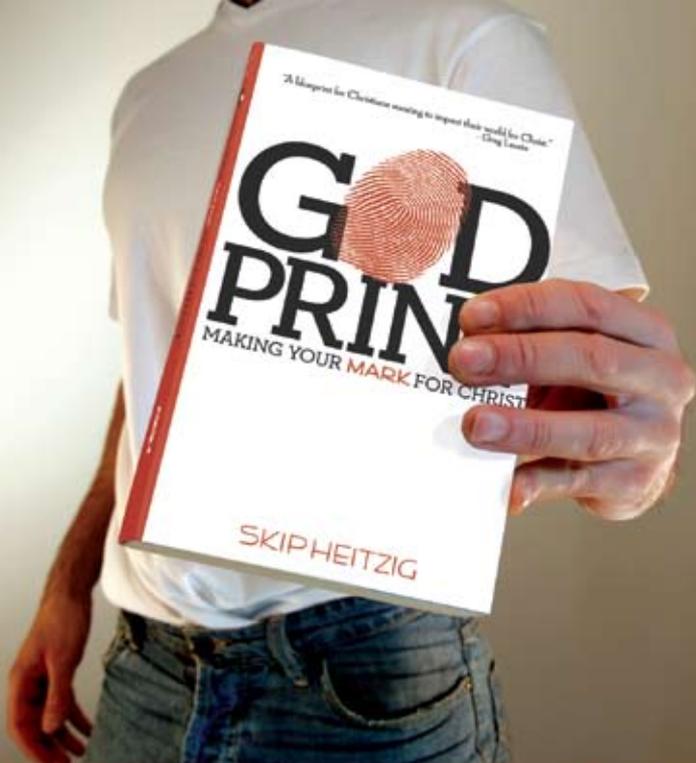
**FEAR
NOT**

**ARE YOU WIRED
FOR WORRY?**
p. 16

SCARED SINNERS
p. 32

GODPRINT
p. 36

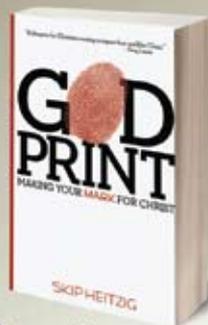
ISSUE 6 | JANUARY-MARCH 2010



Make Your MARK For Christ

Every Christian has the opportunity to leave a lasting, God-centered, positive impression upon the earth—a Godprint. God's fingerprints left a deep impression upon Abraham's life, and in turn, Abraham left a lasting impression upon his world.

Join Pastor Skip as he takes us on a journey through the life of Abraham, asking the question, "How are we to make our mark for Christ in the world in which we live?"



\$13⁹⁹

AVAILABLE NOW!

"Godprint is [Skip's] latest gift to those who are passionate to not only know God, but to have their lives used by Him."

- Bob Coy, Senior Pastor, Calvary Chapel Fort Lauderdale

Skip's Note

Dear Friend,

Welcome to the New Year! A new year can bring many changes: new resolutions, new goals, retirements, job searches, graduations, new beginnings. But the good news for the Christian remains: God is with you through all changes. He is the one constant and His word remains steadfast and solid—a sure guide through all of life's ups and downs.

Speaking of changes, you'll find some in our latest issue of *Connection: the magazine*. We hope these additions will help your personal walk with Christ.

First, we really want to get you reading the Bible. Our new section, "UpReach," is designed to be a daily reader, encouraging you to read from the Bible every day. When the year is over, you'll have read the entire Bible! In addition to the daily reading plan, we've given you a verse to reflect on throughout your day.

Second, we've added a section called "The Vault." Inside, you'll find quotes from Christians of the present and the past. These will help give you perspective and inspiration on each main theme inside *Connection: the magazine*.

Third, we've added a section called "Take & Read." Here, you'll find excerpts from forthcoming books I've written. We hope they encourage you to read more this year—to learn deeper about God and the Christian life.

Finally, you'll notice several smaller departments: "The Gallery" (highlighting a poem and photograph), "Really?" (fast facts relating to the topic of the magazine), and "Staff Picks" (where our wonderful staff at the Connection choose books, CD's, and DVD's that we think will help you grow in your Christian walk). Furthermore, we've added a little extra fun with a crossword puzzle.

Our winter issue deals with a very real topic: worry and fear. With the economic situation looking bleak, threats of new viruses, political unrest, and so much more, there appears to be so much to worry about and fear in the world today.

But for the Christian, we should not worry or fear. Why? Because God is in control! In fact, in Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, three times He commanded "Do not worry!" (See Matthew 6:25-34). Fear and worry will not solve the world's problems—or yours. But trusting in the One who knows our future *will* keep us in His perfect peace.

Let this year be a time where you pursue God—with your whole heart, mind, soul, and strength. Entrust your day-by-day needs and worries to Him. When you seek His truth and presence, God will do amazing things in your midst. Remember: God and His Gospel are never-changing truth in ever-changing times.

In His strong love,

Pastor Skip



this issue

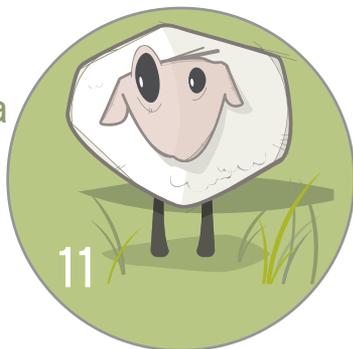


Turning Trials to Triumph

...Skip Heitzig

Jesus had a Little Lamb

...Lenya Heitzig



Stay Tuned

...Dr. James MacDonald

10 **STAFF PICKS**

12 **From Lenya**

15 *the Gallery*

20 **STATION LISTINGS**

22 **UPreach**

30 **From the blq**

28 **Off^{to}Cuff**

32 **H  T S P O T S**

34 **DEAD PASTORS' SOCIETY**

35 **the VAULT**

36 **TAKE & READ**

38 **Search  the WORD**

A publication of



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communications

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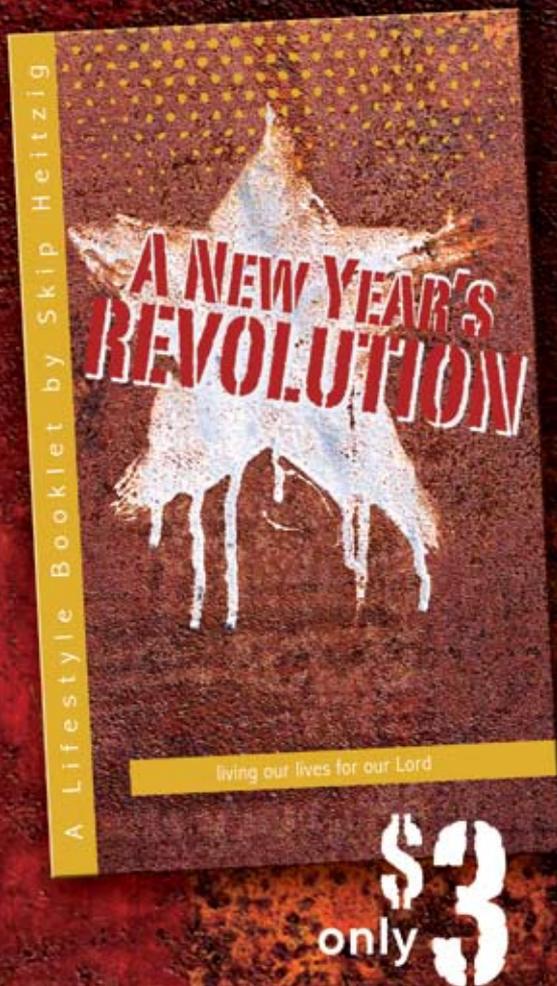
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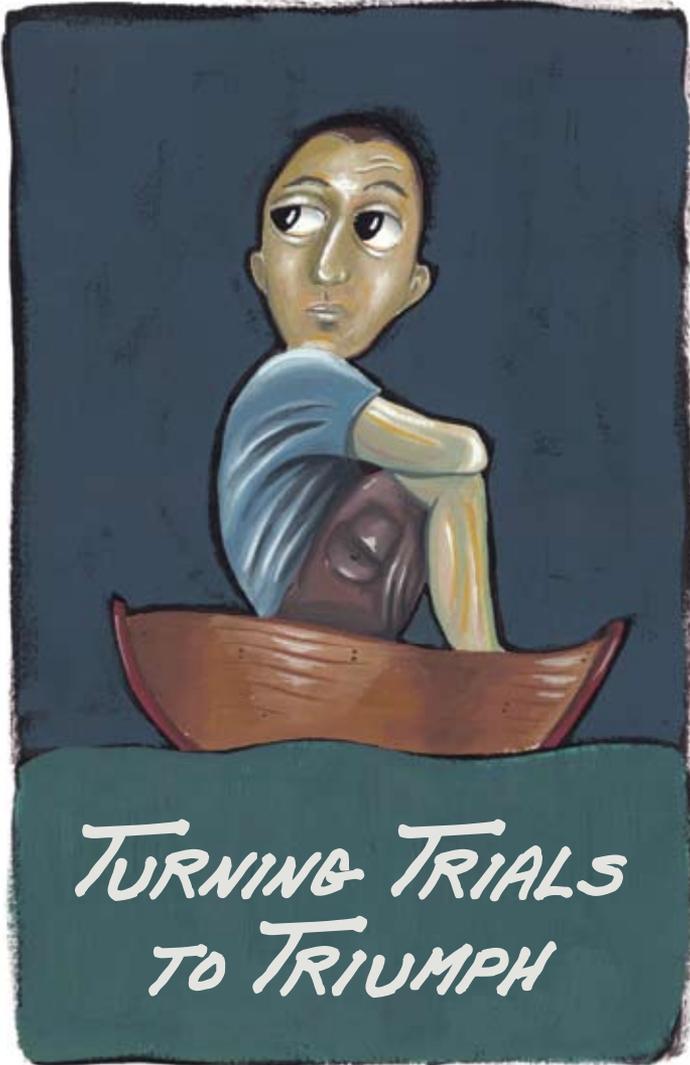
Connecting
you to God's
never-changing
truth in
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times.

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IT'S BEEN SAID THAT WE CAN MEASURE LIFE LIKE THIS: twenty percent is what happens to us and eighty percent is how we respond. When God allows certain things to occur, it's our responsibility is to respond appropriately.

Ted Engstrom once wrote an example: “Cripple him and you have a Sir Walter Scott. Lock him in a prison cell and you have a John Bunyan. Bury him in the snows of Valley Forge and you have a George Washington. Raise him in abject poverty and you have an Abraham Lincoln. Strike him down with infantile paralysis and he becomes Franklin Roosevelt. Burn him so severely that doctors say he will never walk again and you have a Glenn Cunningham, who set the world's one mile record in 1934. Deafen him and you have a Ludwig van Beethoven. Have him or her born black, in a society filled with racial discrimination, and you have a Booker T. Washington, a Marion Anderson, a George Washington Carver. Call him a slow learner, retarded, write him off as unable to be uneducated and you have an Albert Einstein.”

These people all responded well to the adversities of life—they got the eighty percent right. Although there was pain and suffering, they didn't fold; they kept going. We all know that suffering is a part of life. As Christians, we call these times 'trials.' Everyone goes through trials: some small, some big, and some really, really big. It could be a debilitating or fatal disease; it could be the loss of a career; it could even be the death of a loved one. How do you respond? Let's look at a time in David's life—how he turned trials to triumph and worry to worship.

ALL SHOOK UP

David was a mover and shaker who influenced the nation of Israel during its inception. But in all his moving and shaking, he shook things up a lot. His relationship with King Saul was so shaken up that he became a hunted and hated individual. When we experience circumstances such as David's, we wonder, *Am I going in the right direction? Is God really in all of this? Is He going to show Himself strong?*

We know that trials are meant to shape and mold us. If you travel to St. Andrew's, where they first manufactured golf balls, you'll discover the first balls were smooth. Until they learned you could gain distance by roughing up the surface. That's when they put dimples in the golf balls so they would travel further. All because of their surface imperfections. The same is true of us: we need some rough spots in our lives so that we can go the distance.

David understood rough spots. After David killed Goliath and defeated the Philistines, Saul grew jealous when "the women sang as they danced, and said: 'Saul has slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands'" (1 Samuel 18:7). Saul became angry—and envious. He was a walking, talking, breathing paradox. In one instant he'd be docile like a kitten with David; the next, he'd be a raging lion. He even tried to kill David with a spear! Psalm 59 is David's response to this horrible time. The psalm shows that some of the worst occasions can prompt some of the most beautiful results. When we're shaken up, we can follow David's example and go from worry to worship.

JUST THE FACTS

David prayed a very specific prayer: "Deliver me from my enemies, O my God" (Psalm 59:1). Sometimes we feel guilty if we come into God's presence and tell Him, "Hey, I have a need!" We think, *Oh, I shouldn't have done that. I should have at least said, 'Praise the Lord' first.* But here we see that David offered a very specific, very to-the-point prayer.

Later David described his problem in detail: "For look, they lie in wait for my life; the mighty gather against me" (Psalm 59:3). Are you in danger? Being attacked? Feeling the brunt of someone's antagonism? Tell God about it. It's not that God *needs* the information. But I believe the more specific the prayer, the more specific

the outcome. Don't pray just to be understood—make it impossible to be misunderstood. Once again, it's not that God needs to understand every word you're articulating—but it's important that you do. Then you'll understand exactly what you're praying for.

UNSHOCKABLE

David's prayer was also honest. He didn't pray, 'Lord, please bless, lead, guide, and direct me.' Instead he asked God to "punish all the nations; do not be merciful to any wicked transgressors" (Psalm 59:5).

He's saying, 'Lord, blow them out of the water!' That's honesty. We're shocked that David would pray this—it seems more like the prayer of a Mafia hit man. But remember, this psalm transforms into a worship song. And just because we might pray this very honestly—it doesn't mean God's going to do this. The Scripture is inspired but it doesn't mean that David's thoughts were inspired. It's simply good to know there is an accurate record of David's prayer contained in the infallible, inspired Word of God. And aren't you glad God doesn't say 'yes' to all of our prayers? Sometimes He says 'no' and quite often He says 'wait.'

The point is that David was open and honest with God. This means we need to be open and honest about how we feel. Pour out your heart to your heavenly Father. He can handle it—God is unshockable. Let's be honest and allow God to filter through our requests and feelings.

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

Another key to David's prayer life is he evaluated his situation. He cried out, "For look, they lie in wait for my life; the mighty gather against me, not for my transgression nor for my sin, O Lord. They run and prepare themselves through no fault of mine" (Psalm 59:3-4). David isn't claiming sinless perfection. But he is saying, 'It's not my fault—I didn't do anything!' Remember David's story: he was a shepherd who happened to be anointed by a prophet. He worked for King Saul as a musician. He had faith enough to kill Goliath and he became a hero. And although he delivered Israel, he became the most hunted man in all the country. As he wrote this psalm, he appraised his situation and concluded: 'All this has happened through no fault of my own.'

David knew he was in the will of God and prayed with great confidence. This is similar to what the apostle

**DON'T PRAY JUST TO BE UNDERSTOOD—
MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO BE MISUNDERSTOOD.**

POUR OUT YOUR HEART TO YOUR HEAVENLY FATHER. HE CAN HANDLE IT—GOD IS UNSHOCKABLE.

John wrote: “Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence toward God. And whatever we ask we receive from Him, because we keep His commandments and do those things that are pleasing in His sight” (1 John 3:21-22). Let’s learn to appraise the attacks that come in life. Assess who they’re from. If the attack is true, be open to change—but if it’s false, move on.

A woman approached Dwight L. Moody, the great evangelist from Chicago after he’d given a message. She had listened carefully for any words he might mispronounce or grammatical errors. She said, “Mr. Moody, I’m an English teacher and it’s appalling how you’ve butchered the grammar of the English language. I would think that if someone was going to speak to this many people, they would at least master the English language.” He said, “Well, ma’am, I’m doing the very best for Jesus with what I have.” Then he paused, looked intently at her, and said, “Tell me, ma’am, are you doing the very best for Jesus with what you have?” Of course, that ended that critique. He was able to appraise the attack—as was David.

I’LL TELL GOD ON YOU

David’s prayer was confident: “But You, O Lord, shall laugh at them; You shall have all the nations in derision. I will wait for You, O You his Strength; for God is my defense” (Psalm 59:8-9). Notice the change of attitude in David’s prayer life. He used the conjunction “but” to contrast how he felt with his confidence regarding what God would do on his behalf. He realized that the people fighting against him were really fighting against God.

God has defended His people on many occasions. A few years ago, I was in the Philippines to meet with church leaders. They told me about a group in that area called the NPA, the New People’s Army guerrilla group. They were so bold that they had walked into a church with guns loaded and told the congregation, “We’ll be back next Sunday morning for your worship service. We want all the church’s assets and all your money. You better be here because if you don’t come we’re going to destroy this church and this village.” How many people do you think showed up the next Sunday morning? They all showed up—and early. They prayed even though they knew two jeeps filled with NPA were on their way to

their village. But on the way there was an accident. Both jeeps overturned and the guerrillas, on their way to kill those believers, were all killed.

There was great confidence in church that morning. Isn’t it great to know that when you’re in the will of God, you can say, “You better watch it—I’ll tell God on you!” David’s psalm portrayed this confidence: “I will wait for You, O You his Strength; for God is my defense” (Psalm 59:9).

FROM WORRY TO WORSHIP

David’s prayer was also progressive. He said: “But I will sing of Your power; Yes, I will sing aloud of Your mercy in the morning” (Psalm 59:16). The circumstances hadn’t changed—but David had. The song that began in panic ended in praise. It progressed in confidence and it progressed in trust.

In the Hebrew language, the words ‘sing’ and ‘wait’ are identical except for one stroke of the pen. One tiny change marks the difference in the meaning. The lesson is clear: when we are going to God and looking to the Lord, we are just one stroke away from a song. Do you have joy? Can you sing in the circumstances you’re in? If not, maybe you haven’t been waiting for the Lord. Maybe your confidence hasn’t been in Him at all.

Charles Spurgeon said, “Any fool can sing in the day. It’s easy to sing and read the notes by daylight, but the skillful singer is the one who can sing when there’s not a ray of light to read by. Songs in the night come only from God for they are not within the power of man.” Here’s an important question: Have you honestly prayed to Jesus Christ asking Him to be your Savior and your Lord? It’s the most important prayer you can utter. And it begins your journey from worry to worship.



Skip Heitzig is the author of the book *Godprint* and is the senior pastor of Calvary of Albuquerque.

REALLY?



- 40% of what we worry about will never happen
- 30% of what we worry about or fear are things that happened in the past and can't be changed
- 10% of what we worry about are considered by most to be insignificant issues
- 12% of what we worry about are issues about our health that will not happen
- This means that 92% of what we fear or worry about will never take place.¹

¹ <http://www.fearofstuff.com>

Anxiety disorders are the most common of all emotional disorders and affect more than 25 million Americans. Many forms and symptoms may include:

- Overwhelming feelings of panic and fear
- Uncontrollable obsessive thoughts
- Painful, intrusive memories
- Recurring nightmares
- Physical symptoms such as feeling sick to your stomach, “butterflies” in your stomach, heart pounding, startling easily, and muscle tension

Anxiety disorders differ from normal feelings of nervousness.¹

¹ American Psychiatric Association <http://healthyminds.org/Main-Topic/Anxiety-Disorders.aspx>

STAFF PICKS

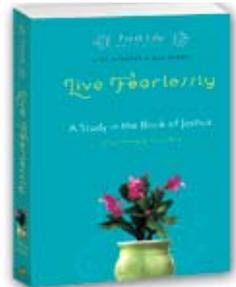
To help you learn the biblical teachings of coping with worry and stress, The Connection staff picked some relevant teaching and audio for you to consider:



OVERCOMING DEPRESSION
(LIFESTYLE BOOKLET)
SKIP HEITZIG



STRESS RELIEF: FROM WORRY TO WORSHIP
(AUDIO CD)
SKIP HEITZIG



LIVE FEARLESSLY: A STUDY IN JOSHUA
(BIBLE STUDY)
LENYA HEITZIG
AND PENNY ROSE

JESUS HAD A LITTLE LAMB

Gleanings
from **Lenya**

King David understood that people are like sheep in need of a shepherd. In one of the most famous psalms, David tells us “the Lord is my shepherd” (Psalm 23:1). I’ve learned that sheep are kind of silly. They’re not stately like a lion; they’re not swift like leopards; they’re not smart like Labrador retrievers or my dog, Winston. They’re all baa and very little brain. They’re cute and they’re cuddly but they’re not very clever. We, like sheep, need a shepherd.

A good shepherd makes sure his sheep are free from fear. Sheep are easily panicked. A stray jack-rabbit can run through a flock and they’ll scatter in every direction. Christians can be gullible and easily scattered, as well. Fear can be powerful and paralyzing. That’s why our Good Shepherd says over sixty-three times in the Bible, “Fear not.”

I have to admit, I’m a scaredy-cat. When Skip goes out of town, the normal noises the

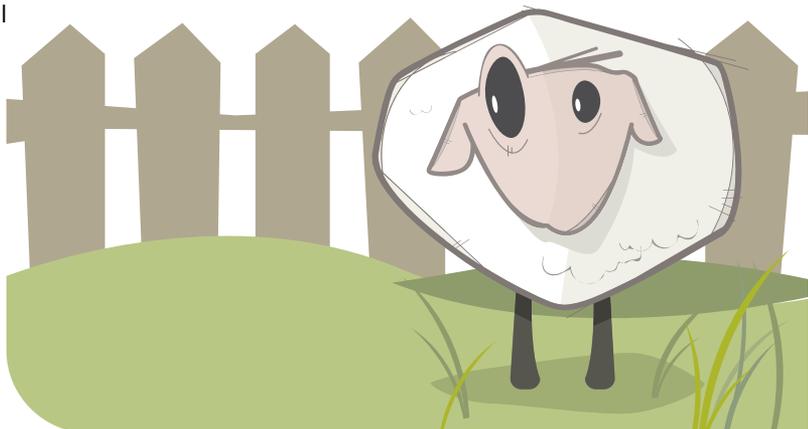
house makes are much scarier. Inevitably something unusual happens. One time our house alarm went off when I was by myself. I have to admit, I was a little freaked out until I discovered it was only because the batteries were dead. But events like that are always scarier without my companion. Psalm 23 comforts me: “I will fear no evil; for You are with me” (Psalm 23:4). Even if I don’t have human protection, I know that I have God’s protective eye watching over me and His unseen presence staying with me.

Presence is a powerful thing. My husband’s presence takes care of my fears. The presence of our Shepherd can take care of your fears. When

Nathan would get scared as a little boy, he would cry out, “Daddy, hold you!” He knew that his father’s arms would provide comfort. When the circumstances are frightening and bigger than you, don’t you want to cry out for Jesus to hold you?

With Jesus as our Shepherd, we can boldly say, “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?” (Hebrews 13:6). We need not fear because we’re assured of His presence. At night if you can’t sleep, don’t count sheep—talk to the Shepherd. **L**

Lenya Heitzig is an award-winning author and sought-after speaker at conferences and retreats worldwide.



a DEADLY un

Recently, San Diego County officials interrogated and threatened a pastor and his wife who host a Bible study in their home. After questioning the couple, the representative informed them that their weekly meeting, averaging around fifteen people, was against county regulations and faced a hefty fine. A few days later they received a written statement citing a violation of “unlawful use of land.” They were asked “to stop religious assembly or apply for a major use permit.” Over time, such a permit could cost thousands of dollars. The anonymous couple submitted a complaint to the county defending their First Amendment right to religious freedom.

There are times that the law of God must supersede the law of men. In Exodus, the king interrogated two faithful Hebrew midwives, commanding them to abort all male children born to the Jews. But the women practiced civil disobedience, fearing God rather than man.

Look at...

Instead of seeing the Hebrew population explosion favorably, the king viewed it as frightening. Fear fomented when God’s people, rich in diversity and potential, were forced into slavery as members of Egypt’s disadvantaged underclass. He then switched tactics—from slavery to slaying innocent babies. Read Exodus 1:15-22.

Then the king of Egypt spoke to the Hebrew midwives, of whom the name of one was Shiphrah and the name of the other Puah; and he said, “When you do the duties of a midwife for the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstools, if it is a son, then you shall kill him; but if it is a daughter, then she shall live.” But the midwives feared God, and did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but

saved the male children alive. So the king of Egypt called for the midwives and said to them, “Why have you done this thing, and saved the male children alive?” And the midwives said to Pharaoh, “Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are lively and give birth before the midwives come to them.” Therefore God dealt well with the midwives, and the people multiplied and grew very mighty. And so it was, because the midwives feared God, that He provided households for them. So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, “Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive”.

Exodus 1:15-22

Y ndertow

Learn about...

In your own words, describe the king's instruction to the Hebrew midwives. Can you think of any modern similarities and/or situations?

Managed

The joyous birth of a son preserved a Hebrew family's heritage and inheritance. However, sons were also the ones called into military service and positions of leadership. The Egyptian king, wanting no internal threat from the Israelites, decided to have the Hebrew boys killed at birth.

How did the midwives respond? Explain why.

How did the Lord respond to the actions of the midwives? What does this teach you about the fear of the Lord?

Multiplied

Every affliction brought an addition to the Hebrew people. Their nation's numbers multiplied and the midwives were magnified. With God's people, trials lead to triumph. Those oppressed eventually overcome. "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience" (James 1:2-3).

What did Pharaoh command his people to do next and why?

Live Out...

The king of Egypt initiated the first anti-Semitic campaign when he declared a holocaust on all Hebrew male infants. Read Matthew 2:1-18; then answer the following questions:

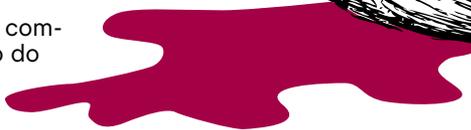
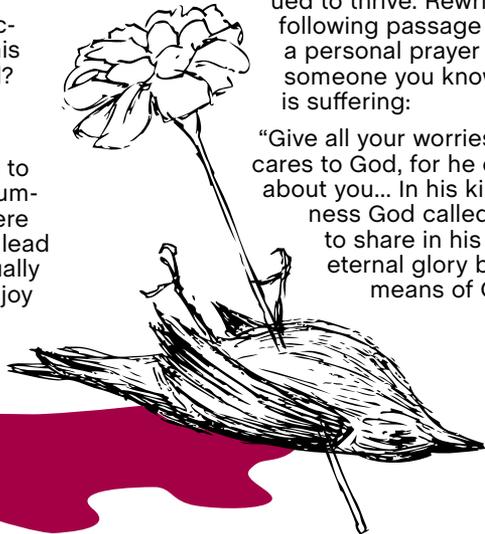
1. What troubled King Herod? Why? (vv. 1-6)
2. What did the king ask of the wise men? Why? (vv. 7-12)
3. Describe Joseph's dream. How did he respond to it? (vv. 13-15).
4. How did Herod's attitude and actions parallel those of the king of Egypt? (vv. 16-18).

Messiah

God promised Eve that a Redeemer would spring from her seed and triumph over the seed of Satan. If Pharaoh's decree to destroy all Hebrew males succeeded, then this prophecy couldn't be fulfilled. No Hebrew males meant no David—and no David's son meant no Messianic line of hope.

No matter how the pharaoh afflicted God's people, they continued to thrive. Rewrite the following passage into a personal prayer for someone you know who is suffering:

"Give all your worries and cares to God, for he cares about you... In his kindness God called you to share in his eternal glory by means of Christ



Jesus. So after you have suffered a little while, he will restore, support, and strengthen you, and he will place you on a firm foundation. All power to him forever! Amen" (1 Peter 5:7,10-11 NLT).

An undertow is created when water on the beach attempts to return to the ocean and dislodges sand. Lifeguards recommend the following procedures to escape dangerous undercurrents:

- Don't fight the current by swimming directly back to shore. You could be submerged underwater repeatedly.
- Allow yourself to be carried out by the current while swimming diagonally to escape the current. This will prevent fatal fatigue.
- Once you have resurfaced, regained your senses, and redirected your course away from the current, begin swimming back to shore with the next set of waves behind you. This will aid momentum.
- Look toward the shore to find a lifeguard. Wave your arms for attention and remain calm. Concentrate on staying afloat until rescued.

We've seen two midwives rescue countless children. And the Lord would send another unexpected woman to rescue baby Moses from the river. That survivor would also deliver his people, who were adrift in dangerous waters.

When you're caught up in an undertow of scary circumstances or worrisome weather, life your hands high to the Savior. He will see—and send a deliverer just in time.

Listen to...

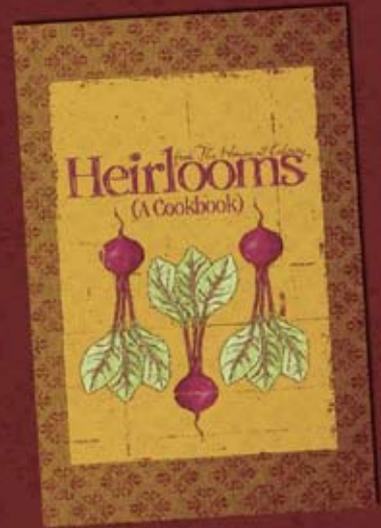
Courage is contagious. When a brave man takes a stand, the spines of others are stiffened. –Billy Graham



*If you enjoyed this study, please join us starting January 26th for the Women at Calvary study.

(Endnotes) 1 Adapted from Couple: County Trying to Stop Home Bible Studies, www.10news.com, May 28, 2009, accessed 5/28/09. 2 <http://www.10news.com/news/19562217/detail.html>, accessed 6/9/09. 3 Nelson's Illustrated Bible Dictionary, PC Study Bible.

*Our Kitchen
to Yours*



(A Cookbook)

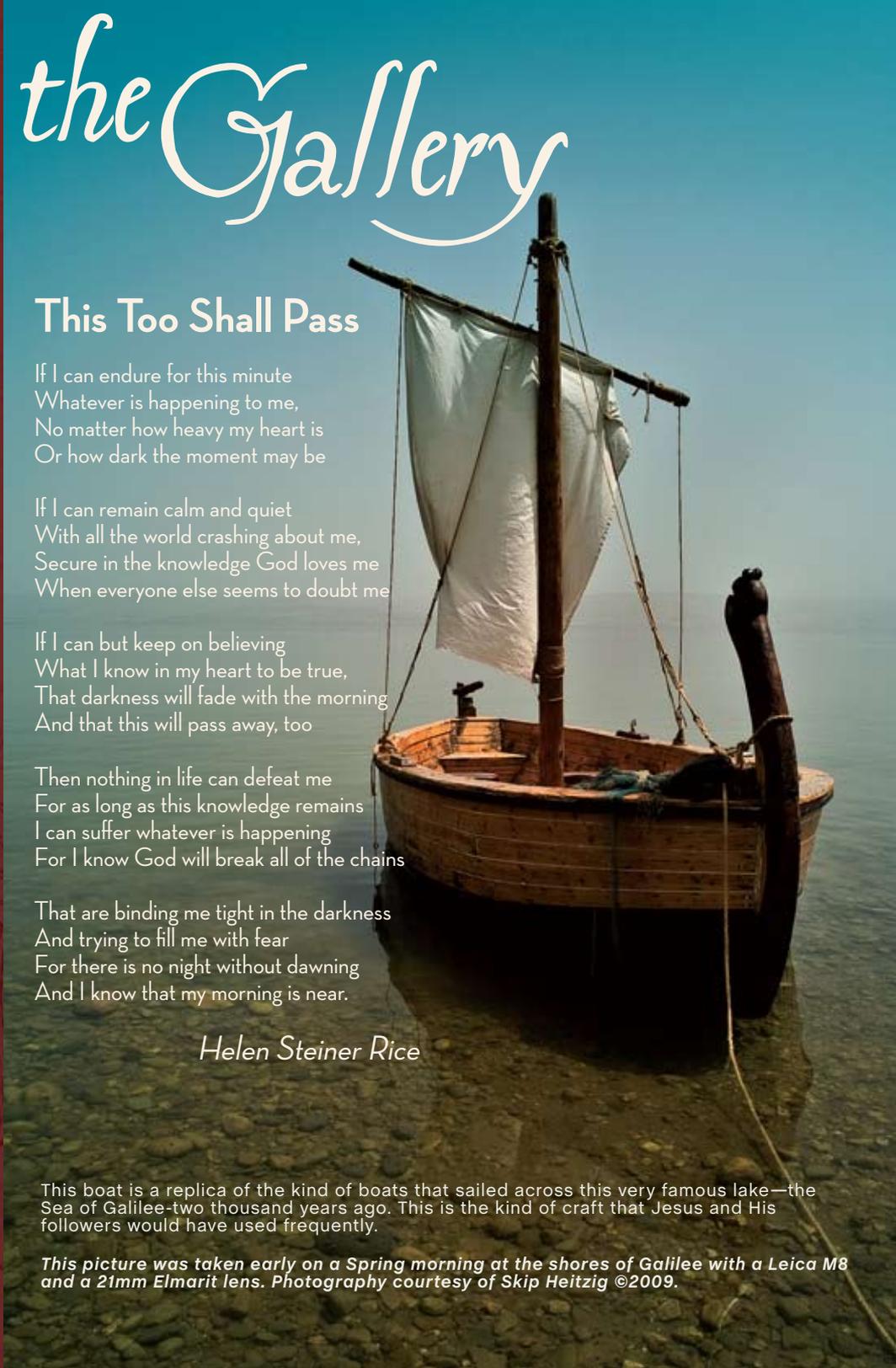
Appetizers & Beverages
Soups & Salads
Vegetables & Side Dishes
Main Dishes
Breads & Rolls
Desserts
Cookies & Candy
and much more...

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the Gallery

A wooden boat with a white sail is positioned on a calm lake. The boat is made of light-colored wood and has a single mast with a white sail. The water is still, reflecting the boat and the sky. The background is a clear, bright blue sky. The boat is tied to a dark wooden post on the right side of the frame.

This Too Shall Pass

If I can endure for this minute
Whatever is happening to me,
No matter how heavy my heart is
Or how dark the moment may be

If I can remain calm and quiet
With all the world crashing about me,
Secure in the knowledge God loves me
When everyone else seems to doubt me

If I can but keep on believing
What I know in my heart to be true,
That darkness will fade with the morning
And that this will pass away, too

Then nothing in life can defeat me
For as long as this knowledge remains
I can suffer whatever is happening
For I know God will break all of the chains

That are binding me tight in the darkness
And trying to fill me with fear
For there is no night without dawning
And I know that my morning is near.

Helen Steiner Rice

This boat is a replica of the kind of boats that sailed across this very famous lake—the Sea of Galilee—two thousand years ago. This is the kind of craft that Jesus and His followers would have used frequently.

This picture was taken early on a Spring morning at the shores of Galilee with a Leica M8 and a 21mm Elmarit lens. Photography courtesy of Skip Heitzig ©2009.

Stay Tuned

Dr. James MacDonald

I wish my mind were smart enough to only work on things it can affect. Sadly, it is not. Sometimes my thoughts rush to review its perceptions of the future and begin to rev and race about all sorts of uncertainties. These dark clouds seem so close I feel sure it will start to rain soon, but no, the uncertainties never arrive as I see them; they only hang in the distance and cloud my judgment, casting a shadow over my happiness here and now. They are just far enough around the corner so that nothing can actually be done about them now.

It happened to me last night. The clock said 4:10 a.m., and I was wide awake. I was in bed where I was supposed to be at that hour, but my mind was taking a tour of the land of tomorrow. The only thing I knew for sure was that my meandering mind would not be back to sleep until I put the future where it belonged... in God's hands.

Look at what Jesus said in Matthew 6:34: "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble" (ESV). One translation says, "Each day has enough trouble of its own" (NASB).

Do you start the day thinking, *I don't have enough on my mind today; I'm going to borrow some trouble from tomorrow and then invent some new problems to load myself up?* Yeah, me neither. The word *trouble* in Jesus' statement means "adverse circumstances, problems, and hardship." Let's just agree with Jesus and each other that every day does have enough of its own trouble.

Jesus says, in effect, *Let's compartmentalize here. You can't carry the weight of the past—that's what forgiveness is for. You can't carry all the uncertainties of the future; you must focus on today. Let's deal with what we can.*

GUEST
POST

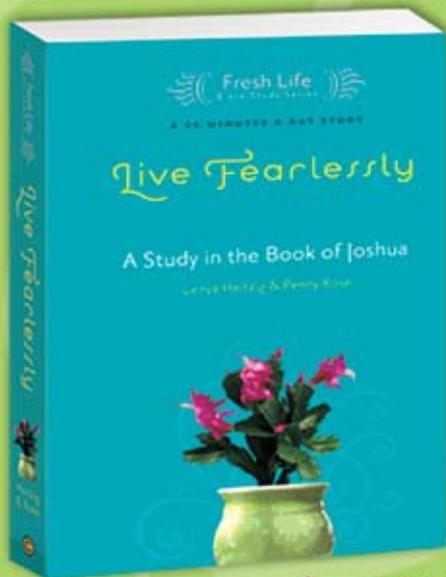


From Calvary of Albuquerque
Women's Ministry Leaders

Lenya Heitzig
& Penny Rose

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When I was growing up in the 1960s, there were a total of three television channels. Think of your mind being like that. You can set it on channel 1, channel 2, or channel 3:

Channel 1 is your past.

Not a great channel to tune in to all the time. There's nothing new; it's always reruns—mostly in black and white, with stale story lines.

Channel 2 is your present.

This is reality TV. Awesome things happen in this up-to-the-minute broadcast. I'm on channel 2 right now as I write this. I'm pouring everything I have into communicating to you the dangers of worry and the positive results of trusting God. I'm not thinking about the last thing I wrote on my blog or about my sermon next week. I'm living on channel 2 right now, and I'm confident I can make a difference because channel 2 is interactive. I can make choices when I'm on this channel.

Channel 3 is your future.

Major static is the only stuff you see when you tune in to the future broadcast, so you have to invent what you see. The results are mostly horror TV, full of all kinds of nasty programs to unsettle your heart. You could watch channel 3 all day and fill your imagination with things you don't even need to know or think about. A lot of people spend their whole lives watching channel 3. When you camp on channel 3, you get these three dangerous emotions:

Worry. It comes from an old German

word that means “to choke.” As your mind drifts to channel 3, worry about the future strangles your happiness, joy, and peace. Your soul begins to hyperventilate!

Fear. This response is more visceral. Something is coming and it’s not good. It’s more of a gut reaction to something uncertain up ahead. Fear is a magnifying glass, enlarging everything you look at. Fear takes a possible threat and blows it way out of proportion, amplifying it so it’s beyond rational thinking and overly emotional. Second Timothy 1:7 says, “God has not given us a spirit of fear” (NKJV). If you have a fear about the future, you’ve chosen it for yourself.



Anxiety. Jesus Himself mentions anxiety three times right in our text, so you know He was making an important point: “Therefore do not be anxious” (Matthew 6:34). Anxiety develops when your mind switches back and forth between channel 2 and channel 3. When you’re flipping so often between the present and

the future, you can’t focus on anything of value, and your mind gets trapped in a cycle that is nearly impossible to break.

We were not made for worry, fear, or anxiety. The manufacturer’s specifications do not allow for this. It’s no different than if someone poured sand in your gas tank or slipped a virus into your computer. It goes against the mechanics of how those things work. Worry gums up and finally crashes the human spirit. When you constantly keep a tally in your mind of all the unknowns of the future and repeatedly review and extrapolate from your list, the uncertainties become so large that they can crush you. You are defeated before anything actually happens! All of life gets sideways when you’re on the anxiety program.

You were not wired for worry.

You were not fashioned for fear.

You were not made for the misery of trembling about tomorrow.

Stay tuned to channel 2. That’s the essence of, “**Sufficient for the day is its own trouble**” (Matthew 6:34). **G**

Dr. James MacDonald is a senior pastor, author, and radio Bible teacher. James has launched 23 new churches in the US and abroad, but is most at home in the pulpit at Harvest Bible Chapel in the northwest Chicago suburbs.

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Lih'u'e, Kaua'i - KHJC 88.9 FM
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Fergus Falls - 89.3 FM
Grand Rapids - 89.7 FM

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St. Joseph - KSRD 91.9 FM
St. Louis - KJSL 630 AM
Tarkio - KRSS 93.5 FM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F 4:30 PM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F 8:00 AM
& 7:00 PM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F 12:30PM

M-F 7:30 AM

& 11:30PM

M-F 10:30AM

M-F 1:00 PM

M-F 5:00 PM

M-F 5:30 PM

M-F 9:00 AM

M-F 4:00 AM

& 8:30 AM

M-F (On Demand Audio)

M-F 11:45AM

M-F 7:00 AM

M-F 5:00 AM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F 8:30 AM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F 4:00 AM

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DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

Sat & Sun 1:30 AM

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Sat & Sun 1:30 AM

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Sat & Sun 1:30 AM

& 2:30 AM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

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& 7:30 PM

Sun 5:30 PM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F 7:00 AM

& 7:00 PM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F 7:30 AM

& 12:30PM

M-F 10:30AM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F 12:00PM

& 9:00 PM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F 9:30 AM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F 10:30AM

M-F 10:30AM

M-F 10:30AM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F 10:30AM

M-F 7:00 AM

M-F 8:30 PM

NEBRASKA

Scottsbluff - KNIF 107.9 FM

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Medford Lakes - WVBV
- Hope-FM 90.5

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CSN International

- Satellite 9762, IPTV 230

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

Every day 4:30 AM

& 8:30 PM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F 5:30 AM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F 4:00 AM

8:00 AM

10:00PM

Saturday 6:30 PM

M-F 4:00 PM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F 10:00AM

M-F 3:00 PM

M-F 9:00 AM

M-F 3:00 PM

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DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F 9:00 PM

M-F 10:30PM

Sat & Sun 1:30 AM

& 2:30 AM

M-F 1:05 PM

M-F 10:00AM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F (check local listing)

M-F 3:00 AM

& 5:30 PM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F 2:30 PM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F 1:00 PM

DAY(S) **TIME(S)**

M-F 11:30AM

Sat 9:00 PM

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Mangawhai - 107 FM (LP)

Manurewa - 107.3 FM (LP)

M-F 7:30 AM
& 7:30 PM

DAY(S) TIME(S)
Sat & Sun 1:30 AM
& 2:30 AM

DAY(S) TIME(S)
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M-F 8:30 AM
& 5:30 PM

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DAY(S) TIME(S)
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M-F 5:30 AM
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& 2:25 PM

DAY(S) TIME(S)
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Sat 2:30 PM

M-F 11:00AM
5:30 PM & 11:00PM
Sat 2:30 PM

M-F 11:00AM
5:30 PM & 11:00PM
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M-F 11:00AM
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M-F 11:00AM
5:30 PM & 11:00PM
Sat 2:30 PM

Nelson - 106.8 FM (LP)

M-F 11:00AM
5:30 PM & 11:00PM
Sat 2:30 PM

Rotorua - 106.7 FM (LP)

M-F 11:00AM
5:30 PM & 11:00 PM
Sat 2:30 PM

Taupo - 107 FM (LP)

M-F 11:00AM
5:30 PM & 11:00 PM
Sat 2:30 PM

Te Awamutu - 106.8 FM (LP)

M-F 11:00AM
5:30 PM & 11:00 PM
Sat 2:30 PM

Wellington - 106.9 FM (LP)

M-F 11:00AM
5:30 PM & 11:00PM
Sat 2:30 PM

SAINT MARTIN

Grand Case - RM 92.5 FM

DAY(S) TIME(S)
M-F TBA

SOUTH AFRICA

East London - BACOG (SW) 0

DAY(S) TIME(S)
M-F TBA

WORLDWIDE

His Channel Radio

DAY(S) TIME(S)
M-F 9:00 PM
(MST)

FROM THE LISTENER

Dear Calvary and Pastor Skip,

I just wanted to write a quick email and say how thankful and encouraged I have been by your heart and ministry. A friend recommended to me your podcast ("The Bible from 30,000 Feet") before I left the US in July. I downloaded it on my ipod and have been listening to it daily since my arrival. I am often listening to it in planes as i have to travel back and froth from the field--so i am quite literally learning and worshipping from 30,000 feet. Even so, I feel like it has brought me face to face with God in some very difficult times. So I wanted to send a mere "thank you and bless you" from Sudan!

Kaci Hickox
Khartoum, Sudan

UP Reach

Taking You Through the Bible in a Year

JAN.

JANUARY 1 **Read: Genesis 1-3**
Reflect: "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth" (1:1)

JANUARY 2 **Read: Genesis 4-7**
Reflect: "Then men began to call on the name of the Lord" (4:26)

JANUARY 3 **Read: Genesis 8-11**
Reflect: "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth" (9:1)

JANUARY 4 **Read: Genesis 12-15**
Reflect: "I will bless those who bless you, and I will curse him who curses you" (12:3)

JANUARY 5 **Read: Genesis 16-18**
Reflect: "I am Almighty God; walk before Me and be blameless" (17:1)

JANUARY 6 **Read: Genesis 19-21**
Reflect: "And Sarah said, 'God has made me laugh, and all who hear will laugh with me'" (21:6)

JANUARY 7 **Read: Genesis 22-24**
Reflect: "And she said, 'I will go'" (24:58)

JANUARY 8 **Read: Genesis 25-26**
Reflect: "I am the God of your father Abraham; do not fear, for I am with you" (26:24)

JANUARY 9 **Read: Genesis 27-29**
Reflect: "So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed only a few days to him because of the love he had for her" (29:18)

JANUARY 10 **Read: Genesis 30-31**
Reflect: "Now then, what ever God has said to you, do it" (31:16)

JANUARY 11 **Read: Genesis 32-34**
Reflect: "'Your name shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel; for you have struggled with God and with men, and have prevailed'" (32:28)

JANUARY 12 **Read: Genesis 35-37**
Reflect: "Now Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers; and they hated him even more" (37:5)

JANUARY 13 **Read: Genesis 38-40**
Reflect: "But remember me when it is well with you, and please show kindness to me" (40:14)

JANUARY 14 **Read: Genesis 41-42**
Reflect: "For God has caused me to be fruitful in the land of my affliction" (41:52)

JANUARY 15 **Read: Genesis 43-45**
Reflect: "See that you do not become troubled along the way" (45:24)

JANUARY 16 **Read: Genesis 46-47**
Reflect: "And he said, Here I am" (46:2)

JANUARY 17 **Read: Genesis 48-50**
Reflect: "But as for you, you meant evil against me; but God meant it for good" (50:20)

JANUARY 18 **Read: Exodus 1-3**
Reflect: "And God said to Moses, 'I AM WHO I AM'" (3:14)

JANUARY 19 **Read: Exodus 4-6**
Reflect: "Now therefore, go, and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you shall say" (4:12)

JANUARY 20 **Read: Exodus 7-9**
Reflect: "Let it be according to your word, that you may know that there is no one like the Lord our God" (8:10)

JANUARY 21 **Read: Exodus 10-12**
Reflect: "The Lord will pass over the door and not allow the destroyer to come into your houses to strike you" (12:23)

JANUARY 22 **Read: Exodus 13-15**
Reflect: "So the people feared the Lord, and believed the Lord" (14:31)

JANUARY 23 **Read: Exodus 16-18**
Reflect: "Now I know that the Lord is greater than all the gods" (18:11)

JANUARY 24 **Read: Exodus 19-21**
Reflect: "You shall have no other gods before Me" (20:3)

JANUARY 25 **Read: Exodus 22-24**
Reflect: "So you shall serve the Lord your God, and He will bless your bread and your water" (23:25)

JANUARY 26 **Read: Exodus 25-27**
Reflect: "From everyone who gives it willingly with his heart you shall take My offering" (25:2)

JANUARY 27 **Read: Exodus 28-29**
Reflect: "It is a sweet aroma, an offering made by fire to the Lord" (29:18)

JANUARY 28 **Read: Exodus 30-32**
Reflect: "Whoever is on the Lord's side—come to me!" (32:26)

JANUARY 29 **Read: Exodus 33-35**
Reflect: "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest" (33:14)

JANUARY 30 **Read: Exodus 36-38**
Reflect: "And he made a veil of blue, purple, and scarlet thread" (36:35)

JANUARY 31 **Read: Exodus 39-40**
Reflect: "And the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle" (40:34)

FEB.



FEBRUARY 1 **Read: Leviticus 1-4**
Reflect: "So the priest shall make atonement for his sin that he has committed, and it shall be forgiven him" (4:35)

FEBRUARY 2 **Read: Leviticus 5-7**
Reflect: "He commanded the children of Israel to offer their offerings to the Lord in the Wilderness of Sinai" (7:38)

FEBRUARY 3 **Read: Leviticus 8-10**
Reflect: "Then the glory of the Lord appeared to all the people" (9:23)

FEBRUARY 4 **Read: Leviticus 11-13**
Reflect: "And you shall be holy; for I am holy" (11:45)

FEBRUARY 5 **Read: Leviticus 14-15**
Reflect: "Then he shall kill the lamb in the place where he kills the sin offering" (14:13)

FEBRUARY 6 **Read: Leviticus 16-18**
Reflect: "You shall observe My judgments and keep My ordinances, to walk in them: I am the Lord your God" (18:4)

FEBRUARY 7 **Read: Leviticus 19-21**
Reflect: "I am the Lord your God, who has separated you From the peoples" (20:24)

FEBRUARY 8 **Read: Leviticus 22-23**
Reflect: "I am the Lord who sanctifies you" (22:32)

FEBRUARY 9 **Read: Leviticus 24-25**
Reflect: "Whoever curses his God shall bear his sin" (24:15)

FEBRUARY 10 **Read: Leviticus 26-27**
Reflect: "I will walk among you and be your God, and you shall be My people" (26:12)

FEBRUARY 11 **Read: Numbers 1-2**
Reflect: "Thus the children of Israel did according to all that the Lord commanded Moses" (2:34)

FEBRUARY 12 **Read: Numbers 3-4**
Reflect: "I am the Lord" (3:45)

FEBRUARY 13 **Read: Numbers 5-6**
Reflect: "The Lord bless you and keep you" (6:24)

FEBRUARY 14 **Read: Numbers 7**
Reflect: "He heard the voice of One speaking to him" (7:89)

FEBRUARY 15 **Read: Numbers 8-10**
Reflect: "Rise up, O Lord! Let Your enemies be scattered, and let those who hate You flee before You" (10:35)

FEBRUARY 16 **Read: Numbers 11-13**
Reflect: "Has the Lord's arm been shortened? Now you shall see whether what I say will happen to you or not" (11:23)

FEBRUARY 17 **Read: Numbers 14-15**
Reflect: "The Lord is long-suffering and abundant in mercy, forgiving iniquity and transgression" (14:18)

Taking You Through the Bible in a Year

FEBRUARY 18 **Read: Numbers 16-17**
Reflect: "Separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment" (16:21)

FEBRUARY 19 **Read: Numbers 18-20**
Reflect: "I am your portion and your inheritance among the children of Israel" (18:20)

FEBRUARY 20 **Read: Numbers 21-22**
Reflect: "Then the Lord opened Balaam's eyes, and he saw the Angel of the Lord standing in the way" (22:31)

FEBRUARY 21 **Read: Numbers 23-25**
Reflect: "Has He said, and will He not do? Or has He spoken, and will He not make it good?" (23:19)

FEBRUARY 22 **Read: Numbers 26-27**
Reflect: "So Moses brought their case before the Lord" (27:5)

FEBRUARY 23 **Read: Numbers 28-30**
Reflect: "You shall offer a burnt offering as a sweet aroma to the Lord" (28:24)

FEBRUARY 24 **Read: Numbers 31-32**
Reflect: "Be sure your sin will find you out" (32:23)

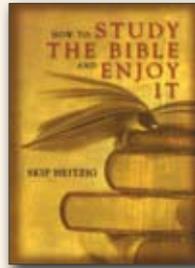
FEBRUARY 25 **Read: Numbers 33-34**
Reflect: "Then Aaron the priest went up to Mount Hor at the command of the Lord, and died there" (33:38)

FEBRUARY 26 **Read: Numbers 35-36**
Reflect: "These are the commandments and the judgments which the Lord commanded the children of Israel by the hand of Moses" (36:13)

FEBRUARY 27 **Read: Deuteronomy 1-2**
Reflect: "The Lord your God, who goes before you, He will fight for you" (1:30)

FEBRUARY 28 **Read: Deuteronomy 3-4**
Reflect: "You will seek the Lord your God, and you will find Him if you seek Him with all your heart and with all your soul" (4:29)

STUDY TOOLS



How to Study the Bible and Enjoy It

This book contains helpful information to instruct believers on how to have ongoing meaningful times of Bible study.

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MAR.



- MARCH 1** **Read: Deuteronomy 5-7**
Reflect: "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!" (6:4)
- MARCH 2** **Read: Deuteronomy 8-10**
Reflect: "You shall fear the Lord your God; you shall serve Him, and to Him you shall hold fast" (10:20)
- MARCH 3** **Read: Deuteronomy 11-13**
Reflect: "Behold, I set before you today a blessing and a curse" (11:26)
- MARCH 4** **Read: Deuteronomy 14-16**
Reflect: "For the Lord your God will bless you just as He promised you" (15:6)
- MARCH 5** **Read: Deuteronomy 17-20**
Reflect: "The Lord your God will raise up for you a Prophet" (18:15)
- MARCH 6** **Read: Deuteronomy 21-23**
Reflect: "For the Lord your God walks in the midst of your camp, to deliver you and give your enemies over to you" (23:14)
- MARCH 7** **Read: Deuteronomy 24-27**
Reflect: "So you shall rejoice in every good thing which the Lord your God has given to you and your house" (26:11)
- MARCH 8** **Read: Deuteronomy 28-29**
Reflect: "Blessed shall you be when you come in, and blessed shall you be when you go out" (28:6)
- MARCH 9** **Read: Deuteronomy 30-31**
Reflect: "The Lord your God, He is the One who goes with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you" (31:6)
- MARCH 10** **Read: Deuteronomy 32-34**
Reflect: "A God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He" (32:4)
- MARCH 11** **Read: Joshua 1-4**
Reflect: "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night" (1:8)
- MARCH 12** **Read: Joshua 5-8**
Reflect: "Now the Lord said to Joshua: 'Do not be afraid, nor be dismayed'" (8:1)
- MARCH 13** **Read: Joshua 9-11**
Reflect: "As the Lord had commanded Moses his servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did" (11:15)
- MARCH 14** **Read: Joshua 12-15**
Reflect: "Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the Lord my God" (14:8)
- MARCH 15** **Read: Joshua 16-18**
Reflect: "Joshua divided the land to the children of Israel according to their divisions" (18:10)

Taking You Through the Bible in a Year

MARCH 16 **Read: Joshua 19-21**
Reflect: "Not a word failed of any good thing which the Lord had spoken to the house of Israel. All came to pass" (21:45)

MARCH 17 **Read: Joshua 22-24**
Reflect: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (24:15)

MARCH 18 **Read: Judges 1-2**
Reflect: "Yet they would not listen to their judges, but played the harlot with other gods, and bowed down to them" (2:17)

MARCH 19 **Read: Judges 3-5**
Reflect: "When the people willingly offer themselves, bless the Lord!" (5:2)

MARCH 20 **Read: Judges 6-7**
Reflect: "Alas, O Lord God! For I have seen the Angel of the Lord face to face" (6:22)

MARCH 21 **Read: Judges 8-9**
Reflect: "I will not rule over you, nor shall my son rule over you; the Lord shall rule over you" (8:23)

MARCH 22 **Read: Judges 10-12**
Reflect: "For I have given my word to the Lord, and I cannot go back on it" (11:35)

MARCH 23 **Read: Judges 13-15**
Reflect: "So the woman bore a son and called his name Samson; and the child grew, and the Lord blessed him" (13:24)

MARCH 24 **Read: Judges 16-18**
Reflect: "O Lord God, remember me, I pray! Strengthen me" (16:28)

MARCH 25 **Read: Judges 19-21**
Reflect: "In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did what was right in his own eyes" (21:25)

MARCH 26 **Read: Ruth (Entire)**
Reflect: "Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God" (1:16)

MARCH 27 **Read: 1Samuel 1-3**
Reflect: "No one is holy like the Lord, for there is none besides You, nor is there any rock like our God" (2:2)

MARCH 28 **Read: 1Samuel 4-8**
Reflect: "Prepare your hearts for the Lord, and serve Him only; and He will deliver you" (7:3)

MARCH 29 **Read: 1Samuel 9-12**
Reflect: "Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you" (12:24)

MARCH 30 **Read: 1Samuel 13-14**
Reflect: "For nothing restrains the Lord from saving by many or by few" (14:6)

MARCH 31 **Read: 1Samuel 15-17**
Reflect: "For man looks at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart" (16:7)

Off the Cuff



Randy Alcorn

Skip Heitzig recently spoke with *Randy Alcorn*. Randy is the founder of *Eternal Perspective Ministries* and the author of the book *Heaven*.

Fear and worry tend to consume our lives; but God doesn't want that for His children. Instead, we should be cultivating an eternal perspective and looking to what God has in store for us through all eternity.

Skip: I have one of your favorite quotes from John Wesley. He said, "I value all things only by the price they shall gain in eternity." That sort of sums up your view of having an eternal perspective, right?

Randy: Yes it does. Let's think now and live now in light of eternity. We're going to spend the rest of our lives *not* in this world. We're going to spend just a little bit of time in this world. Whether I die in ten seconds during this interview, which for your sake as much as anything I hope doesn't happen, or I die in another fifty years, the point is that it's going to be such a small length of time that I've got left here in this life. But I'm going to live forever in another world. Am I prepared for that world? Am I thinking in terms of that world? And am I living in terms of that world?

Skip: How do you then live with that kind of a grid in making daily decisions?

Randy: I think 2 Corinthians 4:18: "While we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal." And I think that perspective—that eternal perspective—is what we aim for. The eternal perspective

is the ability to say, "I'm living for this short period of time on this earth that's like a dot. But from that dot comes a line that flows out for all eternity.

And if I'm smart I'm going to live for the line, not for the dot."

And many people are just living for the dot; they're just looking this way and that way. I think the way that you

overcome that is by reminding yourself, as Scripture says in Colossians 3:1-2, we're to set our minds on things above, where Christ is. Second Peter 3 says we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. And since we are looking forward to these things, what sort of people ought we to be in terms of life and godliness? If you're faced with a temptation, and

THE ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE IS THE ABILITY TO SAY, "I'M LIVING FOR THIS SHORT PERIOD OF TIME ON THIS EARTH THAT'S LIKE A DOT. BUT FROM THAT DOT COMES A LINE THAT FLOWS OUT FOR ALL ETERNITY.

you're thinking this life is all that it's about, you're tempted to grab for a momentary pleasure. But if you're seeking a higher treasure, a treasure that is going to last forever, then you're going to say, "Hey, why would I compromise my life with this that won't bring eternal joy, and even what little it will bring is for a very passing moment in time, when I could choose that which will enrich me and glorify God for all eternity?"

Skip: And those are daily disciplines, aren't they, Randy? Because we're surrounded by a culture that lives for the dot.

Randy: Exactly. I mean, people think everything is so short-term. And even taking an expression like 'grab for all the gusto' and 'you only go around once in this life' and all of that. You know what? You don't only go around once, in one sense. Because the Bible talks about a new earth where we're going to live for all eternity. The passages in 2 Peter 3 and also in Isaiah 65 and 66 and Revelation 21 and 22. God is going to redeem the earth. The work of Christ, as Romans 8 says, is for all of creation. The whole creation groans in longing for the deliverance that will come with the resurrection of the children of God. And what that means is that we don't just have one life on this earth—we'll have *two* lives on this earth. Briefly interrupted, you know. The life we're living now, on an unredeemed, imperfect fallen world. But then Scripture talks about the new earth where we'll live in resurrected bodies. It's like saying,

that is exciting. And I think that can help us break out of this short-term mentality you're talking about.

Skip: Amen. We need to lay up for ourselves treasures in heaven.

Randy: Right, because as long as we're storing for ourselves treasures on earth, then we're going to be living in light of the things of this earth that are passing—that are fleeting. And if you're storing up for yourselves treasures on earth, which Jesus tells us not to do, then He says where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. You know what? If you're spending your whole life accumulating treasures on earth, then every day you get closer to the day of your death, you're moving away from your treasures. You're one day closer to the day when you're going to lose your treasures. Because either they're going to be taken from you or they're going to be destroyed or you're going to be taken from them by your death. But one way or the other, you and your earthly treasures are going to be parted. You're not going to have a long-term relationship with these treasures on this earth. But Jesus says to turn it around, face the other direction. Lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven where moth and rust don't corrupt, where thieves don't break through and steal. For where your treasure is there your heart will be. Because then every day of my life, if I'm a follower of Jesus Christ, that means I'm headed for heaven. And if I'm laying up treasures for myself in heaven, as Jesus commanded us to

I'M HEADED TOWARD MY TREASURES

"Well, I'll only have a body once." No, you have a body now; your body will die if it's before the return of Christ when you die. But then, for all eternity, you'll have a resurrection body. Likewise, for all eternity you'll live on a new earth. And

do, that means everyday of my life as I get closer to the day of my death, instead of backing away from my treasures, I'm headed toward my treasures. 

From the **blog**

with Pastor Skip Heitzig

Question:

Why does the Bible say we are to fear God? I thought we were supposed to be God's friends, and I'm not usually scared of my friends.

Answer:

Well put. And you're right—partially. At first glance 'fear' does seem to be an interesting word to use in the realm of relationships, and especially friendships. Who wants to fear their best friend, right?

But when we step back and look at the Word and the larger context of why we should fear God, it all comes into focus. In the Bible, the word 'fear' in has several different meanings.

One of the meanings is 'dread'. When we think of the word dread we tend to think of something terrifying—something that causes an emotional rush of adrenaline and sweat. And God *should* illicit dread. After all, He is supreme in authority, knowledge, and righteousness.

He is feared because He is pure, holy, and beyond our full grasp. He is power uncontainable and majesty incomprehensible! And we—mere humans—are not. So dread is an appropriate response.

We find several places throughout the Bible where the power and might of God *did* illicit dreadful fear: Genesis 3:10, Job 9:34-35, and Revelation 15:4 are just a sampling. In each of these verses, the feeling of fear woke up to the awesome "Who-ness" of God—His very nature. His is an absolute magnificence and righteousness for doing all that is perfect and true.

The Bible tells us that God requires people to fear Him (see Deuteronomy 10:12, Joshua 24:14, and Ecclesiastes 12:13). And God may also punish those who do not give Him due fear (see 1 Samuel 12:14-15 and Romans 1:21). We also find that people

who don't properly fear God ultimately despise God (see Proverbs 14:2). Ultimately, the wicked have no fear of God and will bear the consequences of their unbelief (see Psalm 36).

Usually, dread is based upon the characteristic of God as Judge and King—the One feared because He alone is in charge.

But if we stop with the first meaning—dread—we'll miss the larger context of Who God is and how the Bible portrays Him. The word fear doesn't stop with dread: it also includes respect, awe, reverence, and esteem.

On the one hand God elicits dread—as our Judge. But on the other hand, He elicits reverential awe—as our loving Father. And just as dread is based upon God's

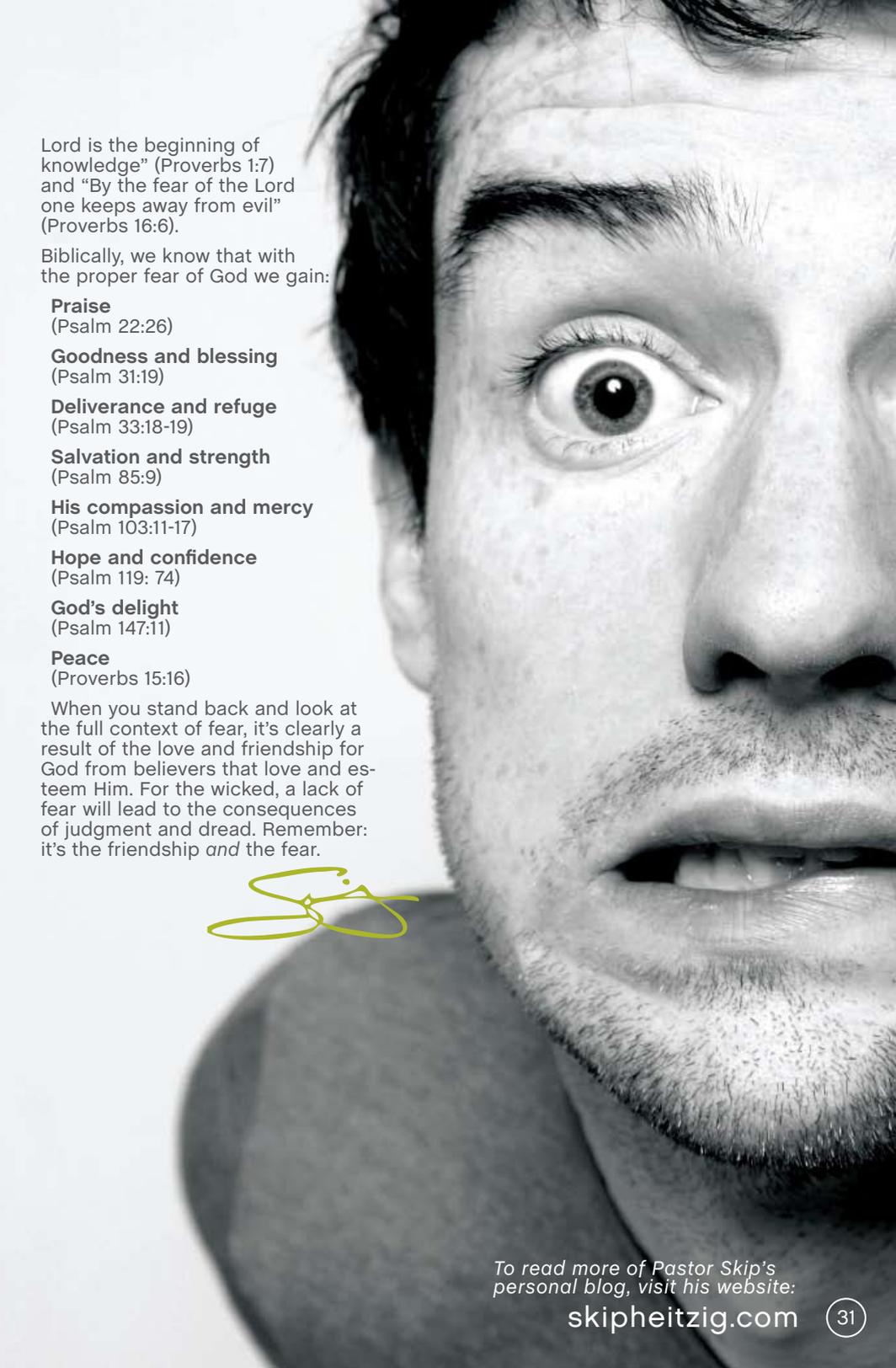
judgmental characteristic, reverential awe is based upon God's characteristic of perfect love.

Because God is love and loves His creation, our relationship is not summarized by dread alone. Our love is for He Who created us, the love of a child for his or her perfect Father: "We love Him because He first loved us" (1 John 4:19).

As believers, our appropriate response toward God should be one of reverence, awe, and respect. We honor and fear God because He saved us through His Son, Jesus Christ, because He loves us and created us, because we have experienced His power in our own lives, and because we continue to know God's mighty power is at work in the world.

And with fear comes responsibility. If we fear God, we want to obey Him. We should take holy living, prayer, and service unto others very seriously. As Christians we need to remember that "The fear of the

it's the friendship and the fear.



Lord is the beginning of knowledge” (Proverbs 1:7) and “By the fear of the Lord one keeps away from evil” (Proverbs 16:6).

Biblically, we know that with the proper fear of God we gain:

Praise

(Psalm 22:26)

Goodness and blessing

(Psalm 31:19)

Deliverance and refuge

(Psalm 33:18-19)

Salvation and strength

(Psalm 85:9)

His compassion and mercy

(Psalm 103:11-17)

Hope and confidence

(Psalm 119: 74)

God's delight

(Psalm 147:11)

Peace

(Proverbs 15:16)

When you stand back and look at the full context of fear, it's clearly a result of the love and friendship for God from believers that love and esteem Him. For the wicked, a lack of fear will lead to the consequences of judgment and dread. Remember: it's the friendship *and* the fear.



To read more of Pastor Skip's personal blog, visit his website:

skipheitzig.com



worry is

SUN

In 1988, Bobby McFerrin sang a song called “Don’t Worry, Be Happy”. It was a smash hit—the song was everywhere and everyone was humming along. Was McFerrin singing based upon the teachings of Jesus Christ?

Probably not. But the song and our Savior say the same thing: Don’t worry. Don’t worry about anything. Not the rent, not the car payment, not the kid’s tuition, not the bill for the cat’s surgery. *Worry about nothing.*

In verses 25-34, the gospel of Matthew emphasizes the subject of anxiety or worry. And three times in these verses, Christ gives the admonition, “Do not worry.” He’s not making a suggestion—He’s commanding us.

Our world worries about everything. We worry about worrying. And we all do it. There is a clinical diagnosis for anxiety; I’m not playing down this very real problem and struggle with fear.

But is worrying equal to sinning? When we worry, are we sinning?

Before we answer with a biblical response, let’s check out what the world says.

Some “professionals” view worry as our response to the environment, with adrenaline playing a key role. Others see worry as related to our internal response clock: how we personally manage and handle stressful situations in our life. And some think worry is genetic; that it’s just in our DNA.

Now let’s see what God says about worrying—the biblical truth.

In the gospel of Matthew Jesus says, “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life” (Matthew 6:25). This is emphatic; like, “Quit worrying!” And then He repeats Himself, “Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about its own things” (Matthew 6:34).

Seems straightforward, right? Jesus tells us not to worry about anything in our life. So worry is a sin, right?

Right.

Biblically, sin is defined as either a failure to meet God’s standard or a deliberate affront to God’s standard. Worry is our failure to trust God’s sovereignty—we don’t trust His ability to superintend our lives. Since the Bible commands us: “Do not be anxious for anything” (Philippians 4:6) and Jesus said, “Do not worry about your life” (Matthew 6:25). Worry is a sin. It is part of the frail limitations of the human condition—the falling short of God’s glory for which Christ died. Worry takes a back seat to our trust and contentment as we grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

For the sake of the argument, let’s say worry was related to our DNA. Does that diminish the fact that worry is a sin? No. Sin is sin wherever it comes from. When Adam fell and polluted human nature with sin, our whole being was affected—DNA and all. So to blame it on our DNA is no excuse.

Worry
is our failure
to trust God’s
sovereignty

Of course, there’s help for all our worries. Scripture gives us a strong promise: “Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time, casting all your care upon Him, for He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:6-7). First, we have to trust, obey, and seek God. Let’s give the Lord all of our worry—He can handle it. 

Fear & Cheer

H.C.G. Moule-Bishop of Durham

Handley Carr Glyn Moule (1841-1920) was a poet, hymn-writer, and author.

The Following Night

Very memorable and instructive is the setting of those last five words. They are the utterance of the Lord Jesus, Himself, direct to His servant, Paul. Paul was witnessing to the Romans when the Lord gave to him His own gracious encouragement: "You have testified of Me in Jerusalem; so you must bear witness also in Rome."

These words remind us that while Paul was speaking (Acts 23), Jesus was listening. Every word Paul spoke was overheard by the Master. Jesus loved His servant, Paul, and came the next night to tell him so, and to cheer him on his way. But not only are these words memorable, their setting is full of divine instruction. "The following night." What night was it? It was the sequel to a very stormy day in St. Paul's life, and it was succeeded by a day of more silent, but still more deadly, peril.

The day before Paul's frail body had been nearly pulled in pieces by the angry Pharisees and Sadducees in the council, only the prompt action by the Roman counsel saved him.

And as soon as it was day, the next morning, more than forty fanatics bound themselves by oath to assassinate Paul, with excellent prospects of success.

A Dark Setting

Was it not a dark setting? Could any moment have been much more helpless and hopeless in a life already wearing out with toils and sufferings?

Look at this man, Paul. He was imprisoned, and just escaped. Now his life is about to be taken by a large gang of the most dangerous people in the world, religious fanatics, thinking they serve God by murder.

But—just then and there—the Lord stood by Paul. In the midst of massive walls, iron bolts, and disciplined guards—Jesus was simply there, standing by him. Wild tumults of the Sanhedrin, merciless plots of the wretched zealots out of doors—what were they to the royal feet of Jesus as He stepped over

them all, and stood by the desolate, exhausted man who had confessed Him? And it was here that Jesus said, "Be of good cheer."

Mighty to Save

To Jesus, circumstances are nothing, even when the circumstances mean the dungeon and the power of Rome. Jesus transcends all, and stands by Paul, omnipotent to love, to bless, and to keep.

Is there not an abiding parable of promise in this scene? It is not alone. A close and glorious parallel is that of John 20, where—in the midst of persecution—Jesus stood in among His disciples, and said unto them, "Peace be unto you," and then showed them His hands and His side.

Like Paul—in our text above—the disciples in John 20 were comforted by Jesus' presence. He was there with them. It was His presence in the very midst of awfully adverse circumstances that brought comfort. His presence was the visible proof that Jesus was Lord, and supreme sovereign over all that could seem most dreadful to His servants.

Thus the scene in Acts 23 becomes a parable of promise. It speaks to the believer now, as it has spoken to all believers ever since that night. It places before us—not only Jesus altogether lovely—but indeed also mighty to save, independent of all that appears to crush His people.

The Same Tonight

Are there circumstances outwardly less dark today? Is there anything known in its bitterness to the heart, which surrounds us as a prison, or seems to attack its love and hopes with a dagger?

If so, remember these words, "The night following." That dark and menacing night, when everything, humanly speaking, was a symbol of despair to a very, very weary and sensitive man, susceptible of fear and care, on that night, the Lord was there.

The Lord transcended the circumstances then, and the Lord transcends the circumstances now. The Lord loved His servant, Paul, then, and the Lord loves His servants now.

Jesus recognizes our sadly imperfect aim and labor to live for Him, to witness of Him—in a life transformed by His Holy Spirit. He loves us now—as in Paul's day—with a most generous love. He knows our needs. He is the same today; He is the same tonight.

So let us not fear, but be of cheer.





the VAULT

*“Worry is like a rocking chair—
it keeps you moving but
doesn’t get you anywhere.”*

— Corrie ten Boom

*“We can easily manage if we
will only take, each day, the
burden appointed to it. But
the load will be too heavy for
us if we carry yesterday’s
burden over again today, and
then add the burden of the
morrow before we are required
to bear it.”*

— John Newton

*“God, who foresaw your
tribulation, has specially
armed you to go through
it, not without pain but
without stain.”*

— C.S. Lewis

*“Anxiety does not empty
tomorrow of its sorrows,
but only empties today of
its strength.”*

— Charles H. Spurgeon

“Pray, and let God worry.”

— Martin Luther



DEAD PASTORS' SOCIETY

*The Dead Pastors' Society is
a class Skip Heitzig teaches
at the School of Ministry in
Albuquerque, New Mexico.
In this seminar, he introduces
students to the preachers of
yesteryear.*

TAKE & READ

Excerpt from Skip's book *Godprint*.

Your Past: GUIDEPOST OR HITCHING POST?

I love the Italian custom of celebrating the arrival of each new year. Around midnight on New Year's Eve, the streets empty, cars disappear, pedestrians vanish, and even the police take cover—because at twelve sharp, house windows fly open and family members toss out on the street some object that reminds them of a thing from the past year they want to forget. It could be a vase, it could be an ornament, it could even be a piece of furniture. Does that sound radical to you?

I think it sounds like a lot of fun.

The truth is, no matter how flawed your past, your future is spotless. While your past may have done much to shape you, you don't have to let it *mis*-shape you. In fact, you can start *right now* to leave an imprint for good upon your world, wherever you are. Few of us feel content merely to make a buck or forge a career. We want to make a *difference* in the lives of those around us. We want to know that our life counted for something.

Do you want to make a mark on your world? I think God put such a desire within every human heart. By the time our life ends, we want to know that we did the right thing, we lived

with a good goal in mind, we lived with purpose, we fulfilled what He called us to do.

Psychologist William Marsten asked three thousand people, "What do you have to live for?" It shocked him to find that ninety-four percent of his respondents said they were simply enduring the present while waiting for something better to happen in the future—for children to grow up and leave home, for the next year to come around, for another chance to take a long-anticipated vacation.

What would *you* say if Marsten asked you his question? *What do you have to live for?*

Satan wants to get you so focused on your past that you neglect both your present and your future; it's one of his most successful ploys. Your past and all that it means has great value as a guidepost—but if you park there, it can become a hitching post, both dangerous and deadly.

Perfection NOT REQUIRED

To make your mark on this world, you don't have to be perfect. You don't have to come from a prominent family, have powerful friends, or own a chain of banks. One man described in the Old Testament began with none of those things, and yet his life continues to exert a major impact on the world today.

Abram, later called Abraham, made such a mark on history that today three major world religions—Judaism, Islam, and Christianity—revere him as their patriarch or leader. All three honor Abraham as a man who left his distinctive mark on the world around him.

Or consider another indicator of this man's unusual importance: The amount of space devoted to him in the Bible. The first eleven chapters of Genesis cover roughly the two thousand years that preceded Abraham, about nineteen generations. Yet the entire middle section of Genesis—fourteen chapters—focuses on the life of this remarkable man. The New Testament further highlights the impact of Abraham. In one chapter of Romans and two chapters of Galatians, he's called "the father of all who believe." Abraham provides the model for anyone who wants to be justified by faith, not works. Hebrews 11, the faith hall of fame, also shines the spotlight on him. And three times the Bible refers to Abraham as "the friend of God."

How would you like God to give you such a title?

"Do you see Sharon over there? She's the friend of God."

To this day, Arabs still refer to Abraham as *el kahlil*, friend of God.

How did Abraham come to leave such a mark on the world? It certainly wasn't because of his past. Five experiences in his early life, four of which he had no control over, all shaped his past—but he did not allow them to *mis*-shape his present or future. &

SKIP HEITZIG is the author of over 20 books, and can be heard nationally on The Connection radio broadcast.

Godprint: Available February 09

If you have **not** already accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Savior—do it now. Please don't wait. With a sincere and repentant heart, simply pray:

"Father, I know I am a sinner. I repent of my sin, and turn away from it. I turn to Jesus. I believe that Jesus died on the cross and rose again, saving all who believe in Him. Fill me with Your Spirit and come into my life. Transform me. Make me into a new creation. I pray this in Jesus' name—Amen."

If you prayed this prayer,
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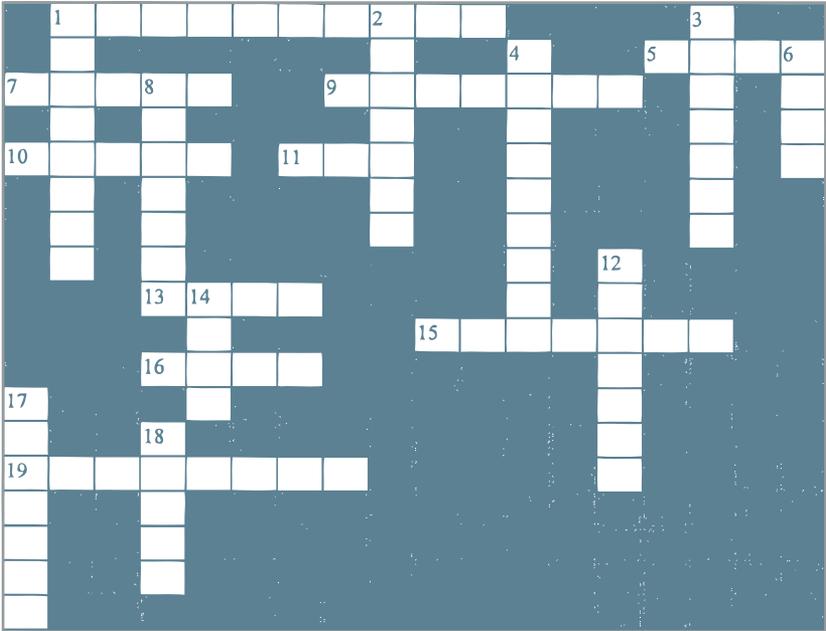
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Search **the** WORD



ACROSS

1. "___ for the day is its own trouble" (Matthew 6:34)
5. This too shall ____
7. 40% of what you worry about will ____ happen.
9. "For God is my ____" (Psalm 59:9)
10. "Be of good ____" (Acts 23:11)
11. Worry is a ____
13. "The ____ is my helper; I will not fear." (Hebrews 13:6)
15. "Deliver me from my ____, O my God." (Psalm 59:1)
"God has not given us a spirit of ____" (2 Timothy 1:7)
19. "Therefore do not be anxious about ____" (Matthew 6:34, ESV)

DOWN

1. "The LORD is my ____" (Psalm 23:1)
2. "But the things which are not seen are ____" (2 Corinthians 4:18)
3. "____ all your care upon Him" (1 Peter 5:7)
4. "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of ____" (Proverbs 1:7)
6. He is the same today; He is the ____ tonight
8. "But the things which are not seen are ____" (2 Corinthians 4:18)
12. Turning Trials into ____
14. If we fear God, we want to ____ Him
17. Worry about ____

NEXT ISSUE

+ Theme:
**GOD
& Money**

+ Guest Spot:
**K. P.
Yohannan**

+ DP Society
**RICHARD
HOOKER**

+ **More**

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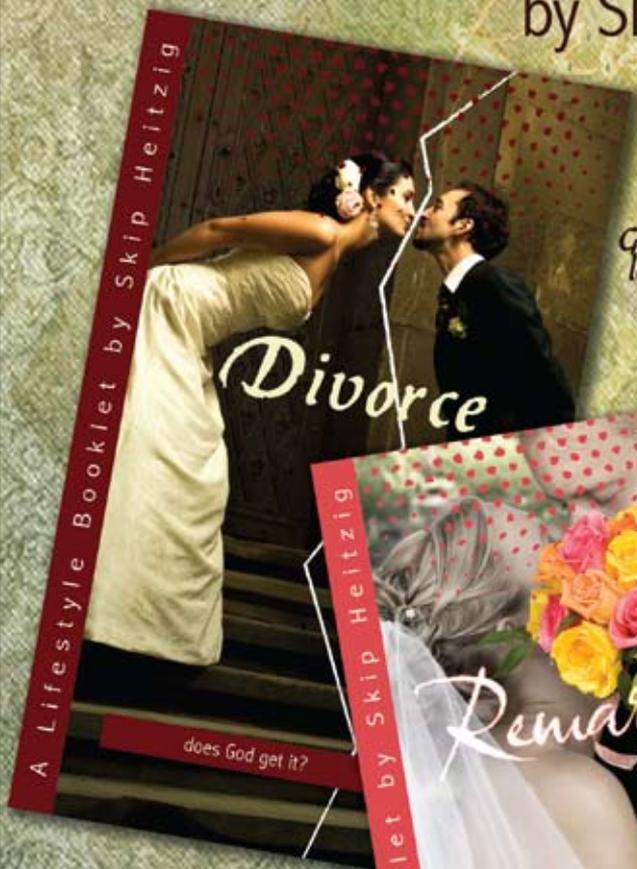
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