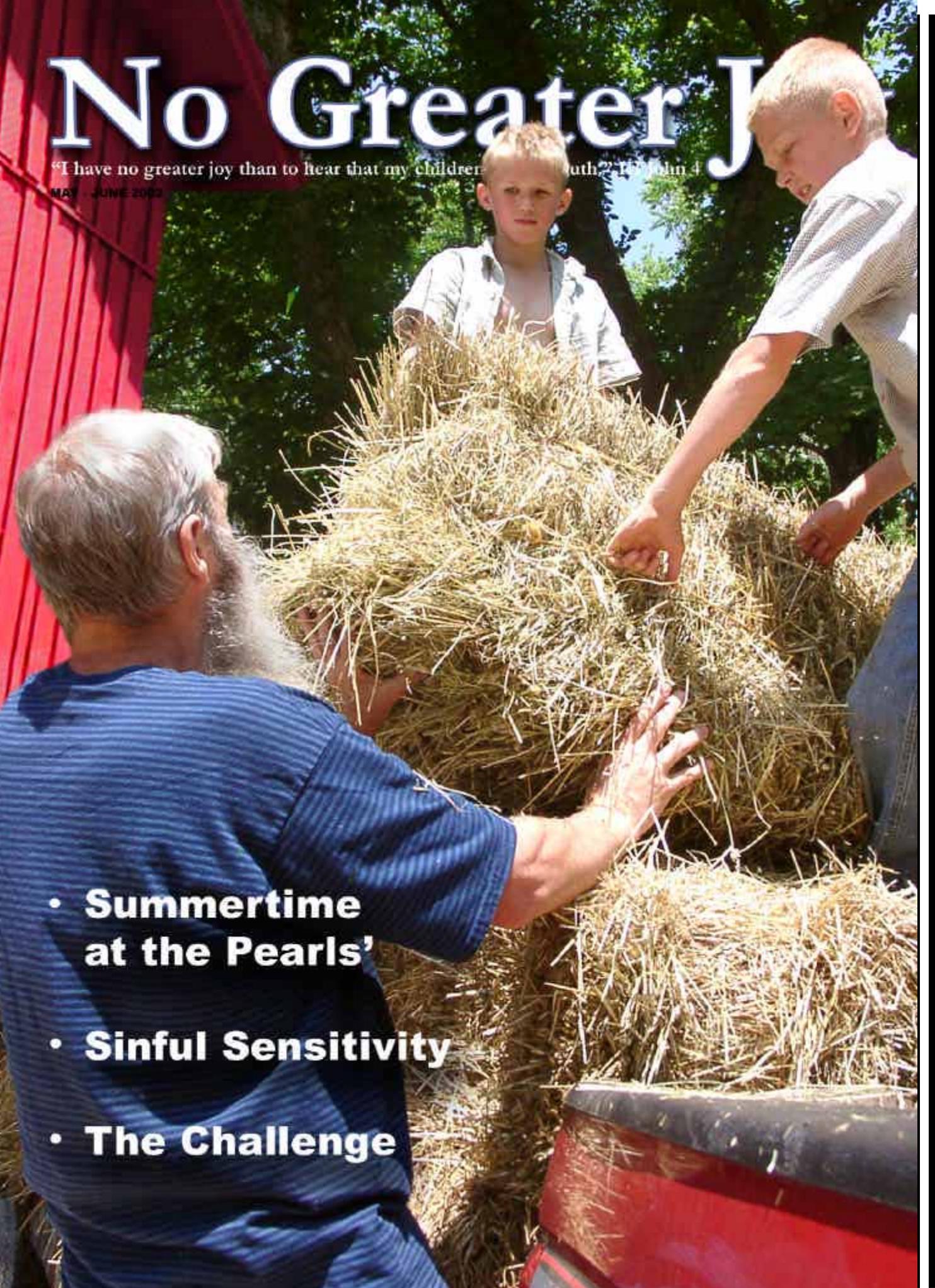


No Greater Joy

"I have no greater joy than to hear that my children are walking in the truth." — John 4

MAY • JUNE 2002

- 
- **Summertime at the Pearls'**
 - **Sinful Sensitivity**
 - **The Challenge**

All Scripture taken from the
Authorized Version
(King James) Holy Bible

No Greater Joy is a bimonthly publication by **No Greater Joy Ministries, Inc.**, a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of the gospel of Jesus Christ in America and in those countries where Christ is least known. A free subscription is available by writing to the address below or visiting our website. Your questions and comments are welcomed. Please send them to the address below.

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ON THE COVER

Michael, Kolya, and Vova
gathering in baled hay.

Newsletter layout photos by Clint Cearley



Clint Cearley

Michael and Debi Pearl enjoying a warm summer day.

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u m m e r t i m e AT THE PEARLS'

Well, it's summertime again at Cane Creek. Shalom and Shoshanna each have their outside work to do and plenty of chores at home. But there is always time for fun, especially now that we have the Russian orphans back with us for the summer. It is pleasure beyond belief to share your life with two 12-year-old boys and a 16-year-old girl who need a family. We are fishing and swimming in the creek. They camped on the river this weekend, and last week the girls took the boys on a two-day float trip down another river.

Deb and I are once again "Big Papa" and "Big Mama." I am learning all over again what it is like to be constantly responsible for developing souls. They watch your every move. They interpret every attitude you portray. They analyze your motives and weigh the value of every event. I have become aware that in reflection of them, I, too, weigh my attitudes and actions. Without any kids around, I am my own person. My time is mine. My wife and older daughters are well past forming their world-views. I don't have

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"I have been set free!"

FROM THE MAILBAG

Dear Debi,
I received "No Greater Joy" Special Edition for Women on Saturday, April 30. The Lord's timing was perfect.

I had been completely out of God's will and did not even know it. I was playing an active role as a Jezebel, and truly believed I was in God's will. The devil had me deceived.

Although I believed I was submitting to my husband, I did not have joy or peace. I prayed daily that the Lord would show me why I had no joy or peace, and why my husband and I were so miserable. Your article, The Jezebel Profile gave me the answer. Hallelujah! I have been set free! I read the article and cried, then praised God for showing me. I confessed my sins before God, then prayed

what to do next. As a result, I asked my husband if I could talk to him and our children (3, 2, and 4 months old) because I wanted to tell him of something I did wrong. I felt it was important for our children to hear the things I was about to say, too. As he allowed, I was able to tell him how wrong I had been, that I was deceived, how I now want to submit, reverence, and obey him; how I want him to be successful in all of his desires, and I want his desires to be my desires, that his wish will be my command, etc. I meant each and every word. I told him I wanted to look at him with delight and "laugh and smile with him again—when love was fun and free—with no demands." I asked him to forgive me. I told him I did not want any-

thing from him but to tell him these things. When I was through, he said he forgave me. When he turned around, he had tears coming down his cheeks. My three-year-old son began joyfully skipping down the hallway. The tension is out of our home. We're all free! Praise the Lord!

I can honestly say, I love my husband again. I delight to do his will. I look forward to being with him and am excited to help him in any way he desires. He is smiling and motivated again. I have hope again that he will one day return to church, but I will not pressure him in anyway—in any thing. I now know my rightful place, again. Thank you for your article helped beyond words. Thank you again,
K

SINFUL S *ensitivity*

FROM A READER

My thirty-month-old daughter is well behaved most of the time. She has a three-year-old cousin who likes to bang her head into the wall, pinch, etc. This is not like normal squabbling. She is very violent. Other people in the church don't want their children around the cousin because of her violence. When my brother-in-law and sister see her act this way they don't discipline her for it. My little girl comes home with a stomachache every time she is with her cousin. But the other night when we were visiting, I heard the cousin crying, and when I went into the room my little girl was hitting her older cousin. I immediately took her into the bedroom and spanked her for retaliating. When I finally got her calmed down, I explained to her that she should not hit back. When other members of my family and friends heard about the incident they said I did wrong in spanking her. But now my little girl is starting to hit her younger cousins as she has been hit. She wants to go play with her cousin even though they fight sometimes. What do you think? Sincerely, M.B.

MICHAEL RESPONDS

I think your little girl suffers

from having a gutless mother. A thirty-month-old is too young to learn how to get tough. It's a time when children are forming their world-views and learning how society is constructed and how one should relate to it. You are raising a great ghetto brat. She will be tough, mean, and independent. She will make a good women's wrestler or bar-maid.

Your friends were correct. It is ridiculous that you spanked her for defending herself. It is even more ridiculous that you repeatedly put her back in this situation where she finds it necessary to defend herself or die a martyr's death. Adults can learn to take abuse from someone in their life and bounce back unchanged, but not a thirty-month-old. She is forced into association where her best friend abuses her. The cousin's "training" influence on your little girl is more powerful than yours.

Give the little head-banging cousin one last kiss goodbye. And on the way out the door for the last time, tell your in-laws and outlaws that you cannot allow your daughter to associate with undisciplined terrorists. I know, we are back to the reason this thing developed this far. You don't want to hurt their feelings, and you probably find some personal satisfaction in the social life that puts your daughter in

this compromising situation. It would cost you too much to make public judgment and take charge of your life. It is easier to go along with the flow, complain, and lay the whole burden on your daughter.

Momma, get tough, for if you continue as you have, you will force your daughter to get tougher and meaner than you ever dreamed. And if you try to spank retaliation out of her, she will get meaner than ever.

FROM A READER

Dear Pearls,

I know this sounds silly but I need an answer NOW. When we go to a Church meeting and take our 3-month-old baby, our friend's two-year-old boy keeps sticking his finger in my baby's eyes, or other such things. I try to be nice and push his hand away, but he will not stop. How can I bring this to an end without causing a fuss?

D

MICHAEL RESPONDS

Dear Dori,

You are worried about hurting someone's feelings. Ask your infant if she is willing to suffer the feelings of pain to protect your social reputation?

FROM A READER

Mike and Debi,

My father-in-law molested his daughters all their young life. He was caught, repented and is now preaching. I have 4 precious little girls and he often asks them to stay over for the night. I do not want to pull up old sins and cause new wounds by not letting them stay. My husband almost hates his dad but still tries to act normal. I tell my husband I want old wounds to heal and we need to do our part. Yet, I have fears. What is the Christian thing to do?

J.

MICHAEL RESPONDS

The "Christian thing" to do is the motherly thing—protect your daughters at all costs to the feelings and reputations of any concerned.

The "Christian thing" did not get done to start with. According to the Law of Moses he should be put to death (Leviticus 20). Under our legal system he should have been turned over to the law where he would spend 20 years in jail. According to Jesus he should have suffered a public drowning. At the least he should castrate himself.

Mat18:6 "But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and that he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

7 Woe unto the world

because of offenses! for it must needs be that offenses come; but woe to that man by whom the offense cometh!

8 Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire.

9 And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire.

10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven."

MICHAEL RESPONDS

It astounds me that you would dare to consider allowing your children to be out of your sight in his presence. He may well have repented, but I wouldn't trust a man with a perfect record, how much less one who had a record of molesting his own daughters. Repenting does not change the flesh. The same flesh that once lusted after children is still capable of that lust. A truly repentant man would never expect anyone to trust him with their children. He of all people should be protective of children and caution others to be so.

I never allowed my girls to stay overnight with friends or relatives.

You talked about open-

ing new wounds and healing old ones. The child rapist is not the one with the wounds. It is your husband and his sisters. From what you say, his wound is still festering. Wounds don't heal when they are covered up and kept out of the sunlight. This molesting father should weep and confess his failure to his children every so often. His contrition should be obvious, not by his willingness to make it an unspoken part of his past, but by his willingness to restore all those whom he has hurt—and is still hurting. When David sinned he didn't cover it up; after he repented, he wrote songs about it as a way of warning others against falling into the same sin. The Bible says, "**Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear**" (1Timothy 5:20).

Every week I go to prisons to minister. Many of the men are doing hard time for just such crimes as this man has committed. Some of them have been saved and are now men of God who will not return to their sin. I would trust them as friends and fellow church members, but I would never trust them, nor any man, with my young girls.

Men who raped their little children should never be allowed into a place of ministry to families. There is plenty of need and room for them to minister to street people and to substance abusers, but they should never be entrusted with pastors. (1Timothy 3).

Continued on page 8

to perform for them. But these little guys are just now cementing their values—deciding what life has to offer and what they have to offer it. Can they trust other people? Who will be their role models? Which way will they seek to develop? Will they be honest and walk in truth, or will they walk on the truth to gain an advantage?

I have tested them. When I have found something broken or out of place, I have asked, “Did you do this?” So far they have been completely honest with me. When I found our pet snake dead in the bottom of the herb pond, I fished it out and did an autopsy to determine the cause of its demise at such a young age. Out of its belly rolled a BB, and I am sure it did not die from eating it. It was just a pretty water snake that we found in the creek and placed in the herb pond. Deb was not really fond of it, but I found it amusing to have my own wild snake. The boys were unaware that I had discovered the corpse, so I was able to test them under the most favorable circumstances, to see if they would lie. Later that day I quietly and without any emotion asked them if they had ever shot at our pet snake. Not knowing it was dead, it would have been easy for them to deny it, but one of the boys looked guilty and said, “I did.” I said, “Well, you are a good shot. It’s dead.” And then I explained to him that I would rather he not kill our pet snakes. I then followed it up with a brief explanation that not many things upset me, but if they ever lied to me I would be very upset. I told them to always tell the truth and we would get along just fine. The whole encounter took less than 90 seconds, but we all learned a little more about each other.

We disposed of the remains with an overhand fling into the woods. The boys are looking for another snake to grace our herb pond. We are going to try to get a

mama and papa snake so we can have baby snakes, but so far we haven’t been able to tell the difference. They don’t seem to be properly equipped.

Yesterday they brought home a rattlesnake they had killed. They were so



Kolya doing some summer weedeating.

Olint Cearley

excited about the prospects of skinning it out and making a belt or hatband. They were both talking at the same time about what they could do with it. But when I started describing the procedures for skinning it out, and suggested that they go right outside and get the job done, they became silent and then asked me where they should dispose of the dead snake. There won’t be any rattlesnake belts going back to the orphanage this fall.

As I sit here writing, one of them is outside weedeating and the other is on the roof of the barn making some repairs. They

love working and seeing things get accomplished. They thrive on the self-respect and the respect they receive from others.

Deb and I have come to some interesting conclusions from having observed them. These orphans are extremely thankful and the opposite of lazy. But many homeschoolers tell us that their children are lazy and unthankful. That is a profound combination of vices—*lazy* and *unthankful*. Deb and I were discussing it with my mother just last week. We have never heard of anyone that was lazy and thankful. Nor have we heard of anyone that was hardworking and unthankful. Our conclusion: unthankfulness is related to laziness. Kids that are raised with everything provided for them, kids who don't have to pay the price of labor for anything, come to expect the bounties of life to be served up without a personal cost. Thus they are lazy, and since they expect to be on the receiving end, they are unthankful. So if you have lazy/unthankful kids, don't expect to produce thankfulness by forcing them to say "Thank you." No amount of moral lecturing or teaching on thankfulness will produce it. Thankfulness is a by-product of believing you do not deserve the gifts that are thrown your way. If you believe you have it coming, it is impossible to be thankful.

These orphans are the most thankful people in the world. They do not expect anything but a beating, some scraps to eat, and a cold street in which to sleep. To them work is a way to make life better. Love is a gift from heaven. Friends who care are to be cultivated and appreciated. A bologna sandwich and a glass of water offered with a smile are received with thankfulness in such a way that you see bologna in a whole new light.

My daughters love the boys like they were family. They construct their free time around the orphans. I am proud to see my girls, 18 and 20 years old, choose to give up

their time and energy to minister to these kids. It is what they want to do. It is the thing they value more than anything else. They would be disappointed if circumstance were to limit them from this opportunity.

Parents, what a marvelous privilege you have. I think that when I was a parent of young children, I did not appreciate then as I do now, the tremendous ramifications of what was occurring. Just think, you and only you have the privilege and responsibility to mold young souls into the kind of adults that will please God. In a sense you



Vova repairing tin roof on barn.

Chill, Centley

are babysitting for God. Even when they are your birth children, you are the sole trainers of God's children. Eternity will be different in some way through the time you spend with your children and the way you train them up. God bless us parents! ❖

REFLECTION

You have read three letters from women who are reluctant to act for the good of their children because they did not want to offend anyone. This is a very common mentality—so common it is the norm. This sensitivity to not offend is a symptom of this hedonistic generation. The last virtue of a wicked society is tolerance. A sinner will throw away all the Bible, but still quote, “Judge not that ye be not judged.” The liberal becomes righteously indignant if anyone promotes any virtue other than non-judgmental tolerance. The Christian liberal calls judgment *legalism*, while the infidel calls it *bigotry*.

The Bible never commands us not to offend people; quite the contrary. Personal feelings are of no consequence. Truth, justice,

and righteousness are what we should seek. If people have their feelings hurt because they don't want to face their sin or neglect of child training, that should never deter us.

When the Scripture tells us not to give offense, it has absolutely nothing to do with feelings. Look up the word in a concordance and examine every time it is used. A Christian is not to cause another believer to be led to sin against his own conscience in regard to the questionable thing he allows. Or, in some cases, an *offense* is to break the law of God and thereby cause others to lose respect for the truth. Never are we told to regard the feelings of others above truth or justice.

Jesus “offended” people regularly. God proudly called Jesus a “**rock of offense**” (Romans 9:33).

“And they were offended in him. But Jesus said unto them, A prophet is not without honour, save in his own country, and in his own house.” Matthew 13:57

“Then came his disciples, and said unto him, Knowest thou that the Pharisees were offended, after they heard this saying? 13 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. 14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.” Matthew 15:12-14

It amazes me that mothers are willing to protect the guilty at the risk of the innocent and helpless. Mother, get some teeth and claws. Ride to the rescue with horn blowing and saber waving.



Thanks for the encouragement

FROM THE MAILBAG

Dear Pearls,

I was so blessed by the March-April newsletter. My husband was so impressed by the enthusiasm with which I spoke of it, that I caught him sneaking a peek at it one morning. You see, I have been only “Jezebel free” for one year, and this newsletter affirmed my resolve and invigorated my soul, reminding me that the painful changes that God is working in me are the right ones even though the world keeps trying to convince me otherwise. Pray for my husband. Unfortunately, my “Jezebel years” have turned his heart cold to the things of God. Though his heart is thawing—Praise God, for it is only by his grace and mercy – there has been damage done by a manipulative and controlling wife that needs God's love to correct. I am so excited as I write because it was my husband's idea to order your husbands and wives video tapes. We are looking forward to sharing them with our weekly Bible study.

Our 2 ½-year-old daughter is the light and joy of our hearts because we have been using your child training methods since she was 6 months. She is a walking advertisement for your ministry: we get to speak of our Tennessee friends quite often.

T

A NOTE TO YOUR SECRETARY

Thank you so much for your story Alone. It woke me up to Satan's lies. I had been heeding his voice rather than the voice of my husband. Many of the things you wrote, I was thinking, such as, "It would be a relief if I could get my husband out of the house. I'm healthy and strong. I can handle it. I would get a good job. I have a good church," etc. Thank you for your courage and honesty to write about what life as a single mom is truly like. I personally have experienced many of those things, when I left my husband last summer. By God's grace, I was pregnant with our third child, and I physically could not survive on my own by my sixth month of pregnancy. (I had a 2 and a 1 year-old at the time.) Against my wishes, I returned home to my husband, who by God's grace, was awaiting me.

I felt justified in leaving, for it was for the "safety" of me and the children. Again, by God's grace, my husband is no longer violent. After reading the Jezebel Profile, I can truly see how I was as much to blame as him, and that I "fueled the fire."

Thank you again. Your article woke me up and saved me from making the biggest mistake of my life, and from "missing out on the best God has to offer."

In Christ Jesus,

K

Riding for the brand?

This is an e-mail from a missionary sent out by our church. He is writing from a country that persecutes Christians and will not allow Bibles or missionaries. He knows there is a chance that all his e-mails and phone calls are monitored. Yet he has to let us know what to pray about and what we can do to assist him. See if you can decipher his coded messages. Read this and try to figure out all the important information he is trying to convey.

mom and pop,

we have met some good peopl here.i have been asked to go to ,new korner, for a look at different project.could be leaving in 10 days for 2 or 3 days.need good conections at this time, will tell more later.also the 1 and 2 of dad's together,i will need some info on getting.please contact t.g. to see if big lot are close.i will contact you soon.keep doing what you do.riding for the brand.

Before you write

seeking answers for your own unique issues, read the three books: **No Greater Joy Volume One, Volume Two and Volume Three.**

In them you will find over 300 pages of answers to questions we have received in the mail between 1994 and 2000.

Authority Praying



Michael Pearl preaches on the believer's position in Christ and how prayer is based on authority that is ours in Christ.

Generational Sins

Michael Pearl addresses the fadish teaching on generational sins, sins of the fathers visited on the children, family curses, satanic footholds, etc. Allow the Word of God to free you from the curse of pop theology.



Husband/Wife videos make a difference!

Hi folks,

The videos on the husband & wife relationship have set us free! Bless you for your openness!

In Christ,
B&B

Dear Pearls,

I was recently able to watch a video of yours on marriage. I cannot remember when I felt so refreshed and encouraged as I did afterwards. It is freeing to hear someone teach the Word of God with no excuses allowed. I keep going to your

website and reading more of your material and I just want to shout "Amen." Our families and marriages are perishing for a lack of such knowledge.

Thanks,
L

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Pearl,

A friend from church with 7 kids let us borrow the child training videos & books. We were astonished! We went ahead and ordered the rest of the material you had to offer and have consumed every-

thing in less than 3 weeks!

This is what we have been searching for. Debi, the tape you did on homeschooling made me weep and also have the courage to do what I already suspected was right. This verse comes to mind:

Ps 141:5

"Let the righteous smite me; it shall be a kindness: and let him reprove me; it shall be an excellent oil, which shall not break my head..."

Thank you very much,
The W Family

Ex-Marine dad changed forever

Dear Michael and Debi,

How can I express the joy that is in my heart? The kids asked if my arms were getting tired from holding them up in praise the day my brother called to thank me for the books I had sent him. After his boys were kicked out of daycare, I had hoped this ex-marine would find encouragement in your books. I sent you a note requesting that you send your 4 training books and shared my prayers that perhaps this would be a seed to his salvation. A million thanks to you for enclosing at your own cost an extra book that changed him forever.

He first read the child training and said that it completely changed his relationship with his boys. He said his goal in the past was to just get them busy so he could do his own thing. Through the books his heart changed to one of a father longing to know his children. After finishing the child training books, he dug into "Bondage Breaker." When he got to the last chapter, he said he took the book to the beach with him. Somewhat apprehensive

he was encouraged by the author sharing that his mind would battle but to press on in prayer. Please picture if you will this 200'ish pound bulk, a neck as thick as most men's thighs, bald headed, tattoo covered ex-marine riding his Harley to the beach. He told me he began to weep at the beach and said to me over and over, "I can't explain it, the hugest burden was just lifted off." He shared that his days are each one finding something new taken from his life. He is listening to the Bible, he told me, instead of just reading it. The book apparently helped him understand the gospel for the first time in such a way that drove him to give his heart to Jesus. His wife asked him, "What about me?" He told her, "Let me stay on the path I'm on and I'm taking you with me." Now he said he is reading and listening to his Bible every day, he does not fight with his wife, he took the TV out of his boys' room and prays with them instead of putting them down with the cartoon network.

Thank you!

B

Fear of Bees

Dear Pearls,
Please Help. My 3-year-old has developed a fear of bees. One day a few flew close to her head and scared her. She was so scared that night that she would not go near her bed. She seemed to be over it until a few nights ago when she started to cry and scream saying she heard and saw bees in her room. She has done this several nights straight and we made the mistake of letting her sleep on the couch and I sat beside her until she went to sleep. I believe she is really scared but at the same time she is probably working herself up some to get attention. Do we make her stay in bed and cry it out? Thank you. R.

MICHAEL RESPONDS

It is not a case of either catering to her fears on the one hand or of abandoning her to her fears on the other. First, consider the fact that she did not come by this fear naturally. She has never experienced bee stings. There have never been any bees in her room. The fear first expressed itself when several bees only flew close to her. She does not fear butterflies that fly close; why bees? Somehow on your watch she developed this

inordinate fear. I would ask you two questions as a way of getting to the root. Of what have you expressed an inordinate fear? Have you warned her against insects and showed fear yourself? Fears like this are learned from adults. What television movie did she see that had attacking, stinging creatures in it? Children can't tell the difference between a make-believe drama and the real thing. Fear of one creature can be transferred to fear of another.

Regardless of how she came by her fear, the manner of delivering her from it will be the same. Fear is never overcome by fleeing from the source. It is overcome by facing the fear and standing up to it. When fear is a result of misinformation or ignorance, the answer lies in knowing the truth.

I would not force her to deal with this fear alone. Fears are caused by association and conditioning. Fears are purged by the same means. Expose her to bees in a fashion that will defuse the situation. Get a video or book that shows a colony of bees. Discuss how they make honey and how the queen-bee makes more bees. Sit in the yard with her, close to flowers where bees come to gather pollen, and discuss in wonder and appreciation the beauty of what God has

made. Slowly get closer and closer to the bees to desensitize her to them. Discuss with her the fact that bees do not want to sting you unless you are bothering their hive, or if you step on one and hurt it. Then emphasize the fact that if a bee does sting you it is not all that bad. With slow and controlled exposure to bees, she will lose her fear.

Once she is comfortable around bees in the yard, it is time to stop catering to her fears in the house. Place her in the bed and leave her there. If she claims that there are bees in her room, put her in an uncomfortable room to sleep—one that is further from yours. Put her down on a towel on the laundry room floor, or in the kitchen. If the alternative is not pleasant, she will be glad to stay in her room. Do not reward her fears by cuddling her and allowing her to dominate your time and presence. If she is really afraid, the laundry room is a nice, safe place. If she is just working herself up in order to gain attention, then nothing will satisfy her but special treatment.

When you have assured yourself that she has been conditioned out of her fear of bees, you will not be in danger of being controlled by feigned fear. ❖

Plantain

by Shoshanna Pearl

Being home-schooled, there were many opportunities to do things most kids just dream about. Dad and Mom were big into gardening. We canned thousands of jars every year. We always had acres and acres of vegetables. Dad said if we picked the extras we could sell them and the money was ours. Starting very young, I would bring bushels of tomatoes, bell peppers, squash, and sweet corn to the end of our driveway to sell. I would get up at dawn to pick my fortune. Working hard in the early dawn light, filling buckets to the top, great drops of sweat would roll down my face, but I knew I had a reward coming. Soon I would be down by the creek selling my vegetables and making money for an ice-cream sandwich. Best of all, I could go swimming when I had the opportunity.

One day when there were no customers in sight, I made a running jump and flew through the air. The creek was cold and clear, a perfect summer day. There was an old buggy rail with honeysuckle vines climbing up the sides. There was also a wood retaining wall about 15 feet tall from which I jumped into the deep pool. Everything was going fine. But when my 59 pounds hit the water, it

splashed up and hit a large hornet nest that was hanging on the retaining wall. As I sunk beneath the water, I was completely clueless to the angry nation of hornets that were waiting for my head to rise above the water. When my last breath of air was gone and my head parted the waters, the hornets went straight for my face—not just anywhere, but my eyes. Just like that, I was stung three times. Two stings were about one inch above my right eye, and the other was right below it. AAAAAAaaaaaaaaah! The pain was excruciating. It was like a knife splitting through my perfect moment. I went under water and swam as far and fast as I could to hopefully trick the angry hornets. It worked, thankfully. As I came out of the water my face was already swelling. In less than five minutes I looked like I had been through 10 rounds with Rocky Balboa. About that time mom came over the bridge. Hearing my scream



Clint Cearley

Shoshanna Pearl and a indigenous plantain plant.

and seeing my distress, she could guess what happened. She came out of the car fast. Before I could even get over to her, she was on the ground chewing PLANTAIN leaves—as many as she could fit into her mouth. She had green slime running down her chin like it was going out of style. Before I knew it Dr. Deb (Mom) had plastered that green slime all over my face. I looked like I was getting a French facial. In a matter of minutes the swelling had begun to subside and the pain was only a memory.

PLANTAIN

There are three different kinds of Plantain: Common Plantain, English Plantain,

and Hoary Plantain. Plantain is an astringent. The leaves in the Plantago (Plantains) genus contain tannin and thus are astringent, able to draw tissues together. Plantain also helps stop bleeding. In the Old World tradition Plantains figured as a remedy for cuts, sores, burns, snake and insect bites, and inflammation. A tea brewed from the seeds, which have a high mucilage content, was a widespread folk remedy for diarrhea, dysentery, and bleeding from mucous membranes.

HANDY ASTRINGENT

To make a very handy summertime, insect bite astringent (which will replace the messy, green slime spit) simply put 1/3 dried Plantain to 2/3 apple cider vinegar in a clean glass jar. Cap and keep in a cool dark place for 3 weeks, shaking daily. At the end of three weeks, strain the old herb off and bottle the vinegar tincture in an empty, plastic, dish-detergent bottle. Label it, and apply on any bite as soon as possible. This works as good as the green slobber, although it lacks the visible dramatics. ❖

Shoshanna Pearl inherited The Bulk Herb Store from her brother, Nathan. Nathan got too busy in construction to run it, so Shoshanna took over. The store is now under completely new management, and much more efficient, I might add. Write for a free price list. The Bulk Herb Store is in no way connected with No Greater Joy Ministries.

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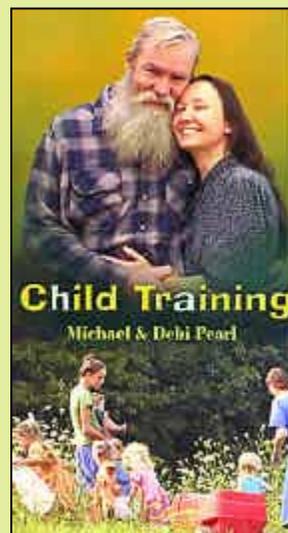
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MORE OF SODOM

Dear Michael,
I am a husband and a step-father of a three-year-old. I'm hooked on pornography. I sometimes think I can't make it without it. I read your pamphlet [Pornography, Road To Hell](#), and it fit me. I'm 29 and I need someone to talk to. I need lot's of prayers. I want to stop this bondage I am in. I could use some help. God bless your website.

MICHAEL ANSWERS

You don't need to talk to anyone. You don't need help. You don't need prayer. You need to repent. Nearly every porno freak to whom I have spoken has expressed a desire to be free from his addiction. The same is true of alcoholics and dopeheads. I have spoken with prostitutes and Sodomites. They all say the same thing. They are miserable; life is a disappointment. They know they are in trouble. They want to quit very badly, but they are "so dependent on it." I have seen them cry, swear they will never do it again, and then go right back. They will confess their sins, ask for special prayer, let you cast the devils out of them, and then crawl back to their sin. Many professing Christians, preachers and priests included, are caught in a web of debauchery.

I said you don't need to talk to anyone, because no one can help you. You don't

have an emotional problem that you need to "work through." You don't need affirmation or understanding. Yours is not a failure of information. You are a sinner, living after the flesh, and you are dead in trespasses and sins. No counselor can help you deal with your sin.

I said you don't need help because no one can help you decide what you value. If you love the flesh and do not fear God, if you are not afraid of

YOU HAVE CHOSEN THE LIFESTYLE OF A BABOON

hell, if you do not value your marriage and your self-respect, if you choose to have the worldview of a baboon—to eat, sleep, and play with yourself—no one can help you except to assure you of the misery you will experience in this life and of damnation in the next.

I said you don't need prayer, because God does not help sinners quit their sin. God commands the sinner to repent, and then God places his Spirit inside of believers, and by that Spirit the children of God are all overcomers. Those who are not overcomers are overcome of sin and will continue to be enslaved unless they become truly born again.

When you fear God and

hell, you will lose your appetite for everything but forgiveness and restitution. You will stay on your knees, fasting, until you touch God and receive the new birth. When you repent to God, you will hate sin so thoroughly that the very thought of a porno image will make you sick to your stomach.

You have never been sincere about ceasing to do pornography. By the time you receive this reply you will doubtless have returned to your lonely room of self-love. If you really wanted to quit, you would permanently disconnect from the internet. If you must use computers at work, you would get a job working in lawn care. You would disconnect your TV from

the cable or satellite. You would burn all the images you now have, and you would spend your free time in the Word of God—that is, if you were sincere. There are other, more drastic and permanent methods of ridding oneself of the means to lust, but I will not recommend them. I will leave that to the words of Jesus, found in Matthew 5:29-30: 18:9.

Paul said, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). I have seen many porno freaks, queers, lesbians, prostitutes, dope heads, alcoholics, and adulterers repent toward God and

Continued on page 15

believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and never return to their sin a single time. Either the gospel of Jesus Christ is what it claims to be or it is empty religious nonsense. Either Christ forgives the sinner and delivers him from the acts of sin or we are at the mercy of counselors and therapists.

The move is yours, not God's. God did everything that is necessary to forgive the greatest sinner and to keep him from committing sin. But God cannot save the unrepentant. And, my friend, you have never repented to God. The choice is yours.

From years of experience, seeing God change lives, I have every confidence that the same gospel that has worked a change in others will work a change in you—when you are willing. ❖

ENCOURAGED ANEW

Dear Pearls' personal secretary, THANK YOU for the blessing of your article, ALONE. How convicted I was & guilty of dishonoring my husband before God in subtle ways. You have encouraged me anew in so many areas. Each word in the article, I've read over and over, & will give it to others.

Thanks for taking the time to put your life into words. You've had a ministry in my life today.

In Christ, L

THE CHALLENGE

by Michael Pearl

There was a time when somewhere in every large city there was a dirty building, dimly lit, tucked back where decent folks would never go. Nearby was a liquor store and a cheap motel that rented rooms by the hour. It cost more if you wanted clean sheets. An XXX and a blinking neon sign, sporting a girlie silhouette, marked the building. Only the sleaziest characters in town would go to such a place, and then they hurried in with their collars up or their hats pulled down low. Zoning laws prevented the placement of these hellholes close to residential areas or churches. Those ordinary fathers who might have lusted to know what tantalizing secrets lay behind the black door and painted windows had more self-respect, or at the least, concern for their reputations, than to risk being seen patronizing those outposts of Sodom. The Canaanites, whom God slew down to the last woman and child, would have been destroyed sooner if they had obtained this 16-millimeter sin.

Twenty years ago most of us didn't even know one person who patronized these places. It was unheard of and the buildings were seldom seen. The law and the courts

treated those "Adult Bookstores" like spilt sewage.

In the early nineties, most of us heard about people who owned computers in their homes. Then we heard about something called the web. What is that? Something like a spider web? Do I remember a famous line from one of the books we used to read, something about, "O the tangled web we weave...?"

"They are looking at dirty pictures on their computers," someone said.

"Doesn't look like they could see much on those lousy screens."

"Oh, they are improving the monitors every day; they will soon be as good as the TV."

"Thankfully, the computers are too expensive for most people to have one in their home, and they are too hard to operate, so the children won't be exposed to that stuff. Anyway, they will soon make it illegal."

Well, here we are just one decade later, and the Supreme Court of the United States of America has protected the rights of profiteers and perverts to display images of child molestation on the web. It is illegal for public libraries to filter out pornography. While the Ten Commandments are considered

Continued on page 16

offensive and are being removed from government property, taxpayers are forced to support the government supply of pornography to the masses, free of charge. Most homes now have computers with monitors that are more realistic than the TV. Children can operate them better than the adults; and over 20% of everything on the web is pornography or worse. Half of the Christian families in America now have the XXX store right in their homes. Families lie down at night and sleep just a few feet from the black door of Sodom. People who would have been outraged to have found a stack of porno magazines under a mattress now have a stack 30 miles high, right in their home.

There was a time that if a man was 10 minutes late getting home from work an explanation was expected; today men retreat to rooms with closed doors and take trips to Bangkok, Thailand or the skin joints of New Orleans. Fifteen years ago less than 1% of men used pornography. Today, according to recent polls by Christian ministries, more than half of the professing Christians "use pornography" regularly. Preachers who would have been too proud to have ever gone to a porn shop, can now go to the worst joints in the world, knowing they are absolutely secure against accusing eyes. How can this ministry help parents train up their children in the way they should go when fathers are racing toward hell through fiber optic cables?

There is an epidemic. The churches are either dead or alive with lust. No Greater Joy Ministries receives hundreds of letters every month. Eight years ago we never got letters that confessed that pornography was a problem. But over the last three or four years, an increasingly large percentage of our mail reveals that fathers are shutting out the family and shutting themselves in to cyberspace. Marriages are failing and fathers are molesting

their daughters. Young sons are finding their way on the web and practicing on their sisters.

Preachers are silent. When they do speak out against the sins of digital Sodom, you would think the sins were nothing worse than gluttony or laziness. "Christian" counselors are practicing therapy on porno addicts—helping them "work through" their "addictions." In just a few short years the church has accepted

pornography and child molesting into its lists of "christian" sins. Thus the sins of Sodom have been normalized in the "christian" church. This sin is so pervasive in our society that if all the child molesters were arrested on Friday night, there wouldn't be enough people show up for work on Monday to operate the country. Prisons that now have 1,000 inmates would have 100,000.

I am heartsick, head sick, and nauseated at my stomach. I am angry. If I knew which direction was out of Sodom I would turn my face and feet that direction and never look back. If God does not damn America and all the Western world in the next 10 years, he will have to resurrect the Canaanites and Sodomites and apologize to them for being so narrow-minded and bigoted.

Men of God are a shrinking minority in the "christian church." It no longer means anything to be called a Christian. I feel the need to add an additional qualifier.

We have a dozen computers in our home and office hooked to the web. I pay men to come in unannounced and search the web history of every computer for signs of accessing pornography. When my son-in-law comes to visit, I have him search our web history. I have no fear that anyone in my home would fall prey to the tangled web of debauchery, but I want to be certified along with the rest of my office workers. I want everyone concerned to know that my Lord is worthy of my devotion.

I challenge you. Let us who name our-

HALF OF THE CHRISTIAN FAMILIES IN AMERICA NOW HAVE AN XXX STORE RIGHT IN THEIR HOMES

selves after the holy man of Galilee make a statement to the "church" and the world. Let us proclaim in no uncertain terms that we believe Jesus is worthy of our whole hearts. Let us demonstrate that there is a remnant that does indeed walk in truth. Let us get certified as real Christian men.

Find three or four other Christian men who will covenant with you to certify that you are free from porn on the web. You will place your computer in such a position that everyone in the house can see the screen when it is in operation. You will never stay up late and operate the computer when no one is looking in on you. You will account for your time to your wife. When you go to town, you will never go alone. Your wife, one of the children or another man will go with you. Your computer will be open to inspection at any time by any of the men with whom you have entered covenant. You will never erase the web history on your computer unless in the presence of one of the other men. You will welcome one of your covenant brothers to walk in unannounced and search your web history periodically. You will do the same for each of them. As a group you will make it known that you have been certified, and you will challenge

others to form additional groups and maintain their certification. Men who have the web and will not open themselves to inspection should be noted as not walking in truth.

We don't do this because we don't trust ourselves. We do it, first of all, because we are jealous for the testimony of the church and the Lord Jesus Christ. Secondly, because we want to provide support for those weaker brothers who may need oversight and encouragement. Write a certificate of certification and have all the men sign it. Frame it and place it on the wall of your home or office. Be bold. Be holy. Our Lord is worthy. **"Provide things honest in the sight of all men" Romans 12:17.**

"Abstain from all appearance of evil" 1 Thessalonians 5:22.

"And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offense toward God, and toward men" Acts 24:16.

"For there is no man that doeth any thing in secret, and he himself seeketh to be known openly. If thou do these things, shew thyself to the world" John 7:4.

"He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy" Proverbs 28:13.



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ME? OBEY HIM?

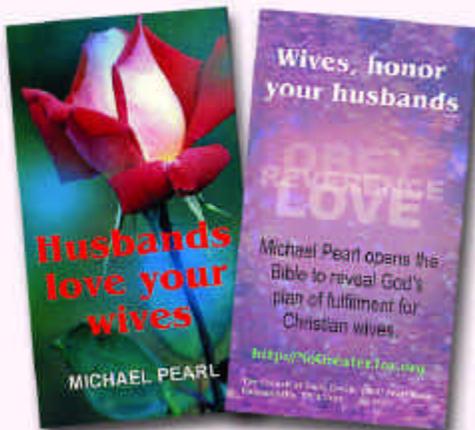
by Mrs. Elizabeth Rice Handford

Debi Pearl says, "When I was a young bride I read *Me? Obey Him?* by Mrs. Elizabeth Rice Hanford. I can still remember the surprise and joy I experienced in 'trying out' what I had read. I know God used this book to help make my marriage, thus my ministry, what it is today. May God bless you also as you read it."



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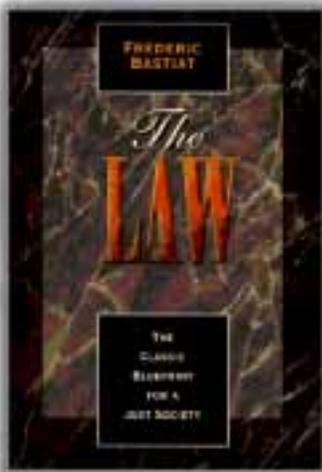
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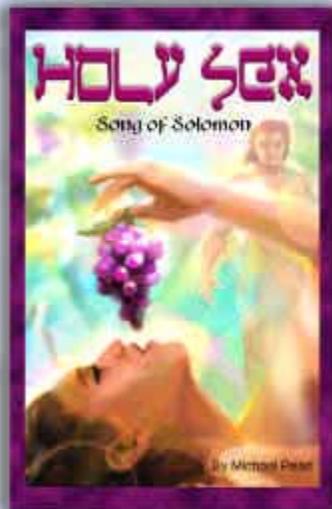


The LAW by FREDERIC BASTIAT

I read many books in the course of a year. Occasionally I discover one that I would recommend to others, but rarely do I find a book that I would place among the top 25 that I would treasure for the remainder of my life. Many years ago I read the book by Frederick Bastiat called The Law. It was written 150 years ago in France. I recently dug it out and reread it. I was more impressed than I was the first time I read it 35 years ago. So I ordered 500 of them so our readers could profit from this tremendous work. This book could have been written today-it is so up-to-date politically. This book is an outstanding example of logical thinking and beautiful writing. It is not about the law of Moses. It is a discussion of forms of government. This is a classic. It is a must for homeschoolers.
Michael Pearl

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Mr. Pearl,

Within your teaching tapes, you clearly and plainly teach that we have power over sin because...the means of sin resides in the flesh...our flesh has been crucified with Christ and is therefore dead...dead things can't last...we can live in newness of life because our body of flesh has been put to death, freeing us from the power of sin.

Sir, if Paul's flesh was dead, why would he find it necessary to "fight it" and "bring it into subjection."? Either the body is truly dead like Romans teaches or it is not really dead and we are forced to play mind games with ourselves to make ourselves believe it is dead.

I am starting to question my faith because these things are not adding up.
MS

MIKE ANSWERS:

The Word of God reveals a pattern that is discovered from Genesis to Revelation. God always relates to man in this method. Hebrews 11 sums up this faith method. It is called "hope" in Romans 8. God always saves by hope, "but hope that is seen is not hope," for if a man sees the reality, it eliminates the possibility of living in a state of hope. In all God's dealings with man, he is seeking to restore trust. Man has spent many years "undoing" the character of God in himself and his society. God could have placed Adam in the garden in a glorified condition, incapable of sinning. God could have remained in the garden and kept Adam from sinning. God could have explained things to him in more detail and prevented him from being so tempted. But the Creator placed his first man in an environment that required ongoing trust. Adam had to walk by faith. By faith, Abel offered a more acceptable sacrifice. Abraham went out not knowing where he was going. God gave him a city which had foundations

whose builder and maker was God, and told him that he was the father of a great nation, when he and Sarah were incapable of having children. But rather than fulfill his promise immediately, God delayed 25 years until the promise seemed elusive at best. God told Abraham to walk through the land and that every place the sole of his foot touched was his. He spent his whole life living in a reality that God defined, but which he never saw with his eyes. He "died in faith" having not seen the promise, but was "persuaded of it."

The 11th chapter of Hebrews goes on to show that the entire program of God proceeds in the same manner. When 10 lepers wanted to be healed, Jesus told them to go to the temple and demonstrate to the priest that they were already healed. When they were still visibly covered with leprosy, they acted on the word of Jesus and by "hope" they headed to the temple. As they went they were healed.

Likewise, when a lame man wanted to walk, Jesus didn't create visible signs of healing; He told the lame man to rise up and walk. The man had to act by faith and hope, based on the reality of Jesus—not what was obvious to him and everyone else who saw him. The very gospel is of this nature. The preacher goes to a sinner and tells him that his sins were forgiven 2000 years ago. He must believe the unseen and act in God's reality, not his own.

God could have designed that upon the day of our conversion, we were instantly and visibly transformed into glorified sons, without these bodies of flesh, but he chose to allow a gap between the moment of our crucifixion to sin, our resurrection and our ascension, and the full and visible realization of it in glory. God allows us a few years to walk by faith and hope, a time when we appropriate all that was in the atonement and co-crucifixion by means of restored trust and fellowship. As Abraham, we are to

“reckon” a thing to be true because God says it is, not because we see it. We are to spend our lives here on earth walking by faith, living the life of Jesus Christ through the power of his spirit. It is a time when we can undo all the years of unbelief and carnality—a time when the words of God are our reality against our own sight.

You said you were “starting to question your faith.” Maybe you have had little faith and a lot of religion. It is time to believe God that you are a “new creature, old things are passed away and all things are become new.” Paul “reckoned himself to be dead indeed unto sin but alive unto God.” True faith starts where sight and demonstration stop. “Your faith” should be questioned, and “the faith of God” should take its place.

If Hebrews 11 were to continue until the present, it would read something like this: “And the followers of Christ, though they were living in bodies of flesh, believed God that they were indeed baptized into his body and thus freed from sin. They went out into the world, walking by faith and hope and so, though they never saw their glorified bodies or the throne on which they were seated, they believed God against the sight of their eyes and so walked in holiness and victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil. While the world looked on the things that are seen, these sons of The Last Adam, believed him who is invisible and so inherited the kingdom and entered into the city which had foundations whose builder and maker is God.” ❖

A wiser, older couple is troubled at what they saw...

Mike,

We recently visited a family who follow your teachings to the “T”. The children are very well behaved. But I wondered if you’ve ever had anyone overdo it? The children didn’t have the spark of life as much as we remember our children having. We pass out your books and have been around other families with wonderful kids that are more relaxed and happy. We were troubled. Should we be?.....

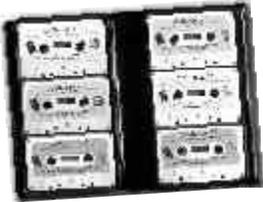
DEBI PEARL RESPONDS

Yes, we all need to be troubled, and young couples need encouragement and help from the older couples. We have seen families who take what we and others have written and use it like the law. When older, wiser people try to help bring balance, the younger couples do not take their counsel. It grieves us. If children are not bubbling with joy and eager to be a part of life, then something is very wrong. Good training begins and ends with tying strings of fellowship and bonds of good times.

Letter Continues:

We also noted that the mother was swatting their very young children for not meeting possibly unfair expectations. One as young as 13 weeks old was being swatted to stop crying. The mother was trying to teach her one year old to put toys away, but the kid just didn’t understand and it was an intense confrontation. We tried to let them see a balance but what they understood you meant and what we understood you meant were 2 very different things.

Continued on page 24



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Continued from page 21

It is true that we occasionally hear that young mothers and more seldom, fathers, take what we teach out of context and misuse their children. First, love your child. Care that the child is well, happy, and relaxed. Training should not be tense, upsetting, hurtful, or pushed. It should be a simple exercise in showing the child what you want him to do. A tiny stimulus to direct the child when they are small is enough. For example, if a 3 month-old nursing baby bites, don't spank. She does not know she did bad. Just gently pull a hair on her head. She will startle back in momentary discomfort and immediately start nursing again. The tiny bit of discomfort makes the baby relate the biting down with the gentle pulling of the hair. You have not made her obey, you have only conditioned her to respond differently. That is training. If you take a 13 week-old baby who is fussing, and squirming and pop her leg, it will only bring more fussing and crying. The child cannot relate those 2 events. She most likely has a tummy ache that needs some relief, not added pain. Ask God for wisdom. He promises to give to those who simply ask.

Deb

NOTICE:

No Greater Joy Ministries is no longer connected with The Church at Cane Creek. When the ministry grew well beyond the means and bounds of the church, our bookkeepers and attorneys urged us to place the ministry under a 501C3, non-profit, Religious Corporation. The church elders were in full agreement with this decision, so we chose a board and took the necessary steps to separate No Greater Joy Ministries from the church. This task is now completed.

We have constructed this corporation and ministry on the highest standards possible. We have employees and bookkeepers that manage the business end with a professional office management program that keeps tabs on every detail imaginable. We can now trace every cent and every piece of inventory.

The nature of our ministry remains the same. We continue to be dedicated to serving Christian families by means of the printed page and electronic media. Our focus on missions is stronger than ever. As we are able, we support Bible translation, printing, and distribution in other languages. We will continue to make our materials available at the lowest possible prices. Michael and Debi Pearl receive no royalties from the sales of their materials. We are here to serve you.

Sign up at our website for email notification of the release of our latest newsletter.

Website Address:

www.NoGreaterJoy.org

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