

No Greater Joy

March - April 2006

*"I have no greater joy than to hear that
my children walk in truth." III John 4*

Daddy's Girl

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Dad's Daughter

Dad, you must get this one right. If you mess up here, all that you have invested in your daughter could be wasted on a dud.

The guys come around asking for her hand, but they really want much more. They want the entire twenty or so years you have invested in your precious daughter. They want all the training, the money you sank into dental and medical, and all the clothes and education. They want to reap the harvest that you have so carefully tended and protected for the best part of your life. When that young man comes around asking for your daughter, or maybe just announces that he is taking her, he is making off with the major fruit of your life.

Raising daughters is not a good business deal. You make a twenty-year investment and then just up and give the whole thing away to an inexperienced boy who doesn't at all appreciate the value of what he is getting, and is probably not worthy of the gift, or "theft," as it may be. To top it all off, he changes her name – takes her out of the family, and erases all traces of her lineage. Her children will not carry on your family name!

But there is comfort in knowing that all your investment was not really for that bonehead son-in-law; it was for your daughter – for her sake. Because you made her your life's work, no matter what befalls her later in life, you can know that she will face it with courage and wisdom, bringing glory to God. She was God's gift to you and your wife, precious

and vulnerable, just raw material, and by means of his grace, you gave her back to him to be one of his stars in eternity. We dads are God's teachers, his priests, entrusted with his most beloved creation, his last crowning feat of creation – the human female.

It is an act of faith to give our daughters in marriage. It must be how God felt when he turned away and left Adam alone in the garden with Eve.



His work, as is ours, was complete. Their lives are now theirs to live – for better or for worse.

The Bible speaks of fathers "giving" their daughters in marriage, as if everyone respected his right to legislate in such matters. In an ideal society, fathers would always be wise, daughters would be mature, and suitors would be transparent and righteous. But fathers are usually clumsy and dull of discernment; daughters, selfish and impatient and suitors may be lustful and coy. Sadly, statistics show that new "Christian"

marriages are more likely to end in divorce than not. And of those who stay together, most are not happy and holy. Holy matrimony is nearly a lost grace, as rare and blessed as the appearance of an angel.

Fathers, those of you with daughters yet to be married, I am speaking to you now. After you are satisfied that you have put your best into your daughter and after you have prepared and preserved her for her day of marriage, you have one last task that *you must get right*. If you miss this last turn in all your preparations, you have missed your life's most vital purpose as a father. You must make absolutely sure that the one to whom you give your daughter is indeed worthy of her. This is not an easy task. Outward appearance is deceiving, and you are quite capable of being deceived. You will need help, more than I can give, in screening the young men who would court your daughter. It is this screening process that we are going to talk about. You are the chief screener. Do you know what questions to ask and how to ask them? Do you know how to get behind the young man's facade and know the real man?

My daughters are all married now – and married well! So now I am "free" to share some of my experience and secrets, and offer some suggestions that may help you when your time of "trial" comes. I have wanted to go public with this information ever since I went through this with our first daughter many years ago, but I didn't want to put it into print and give away my secrets to the young fellows who were "already on their way to our

front porch,” eventually to come asking for my other two daughters. I didn’t want them to be forearmed and well-equipped, so as to answer my questions deceitfully.

Looking back now, the whole process was actually a bit humorous. Before my daughters were all married, I used to have lots of young

friends who didn’t have anything better to do than come around asking me if there was anything they could do for me. They never saw my grin, and they didn’t hear the whispers going on around the house, but I always made sure I had something for them to do. There were weeds that needed to be hoed,

ditches to be cleaned out, firewood to be split and stacked, and lots of painting and plumbing chores “just waiting” for all these young men. It was amazing to see how these young guys seemed to love to wash dishes and cook, that is, as long as the girls were telling them what to do while flittering around the kitchen.

Life for me is much harder now that the girls are all married. Sons-in-law somehow don’t seem to care now if there is work to be done and that I must do it all alone. And I haven’t seen any of them jumping into the kitchen to do dishes since they carried one of my favorite “dishes” home. So, one of the first things you can expect is a young man who is suddenly interested in getting to know your family better. Watch his eyes. Like a hawk circling a rabbit, his eyes will reveal his intentions. It was a great source of entertainment for a decade. I miss it!

Now, to get down to serious business. The time will come when the young man stumbles around and asks if he can court your daughter with consideration toward marriage. Although he may think so, this is not a request for her hand in marriage, but a simple request to get to know her better so as to determine if they

are suitable as life partners. This is an opportunity for both of them to get to know each other in a social way and in a family setting. It is not a time for them to be alone or to develop emotional attachments. The young man can be included in family outings, work days, dinners, and family evenings playing games and

telling tall tales. He can work with you and even go shopping with your wife and daughter.

I had several young men ask to court, or marry my daughters whom I was able to eliminate before the conversation terminated. It’s called marriage Q & A. You ask the right questions, and he tries to give the right answers.

There are some concerns that are universal and must be addressed. They are serious enough that any father should reject a suitor who doesn’t measure up. Getting to the truth early and openly is the key.

Before you even bother to check up on references, and immediately upon being approached by each prospective suitor is your best moment to cut to the quick with him. The young man will obviously be a little nervous and unsure of himself, so put him at ease by being at ease yourself. Find someplace where you can both sit down and talk in private. Start out by asking inconsequential questions that are not likely to be of any great importance, no matter how they are answered. They can be questions like:

“How old are you?”

“How many brothers and sisters do you have?”

“What kind of schooling have you had?”

“Where do you go to church?”

Then proceed to more significant inquiries, like:

“Where do you work?”

“What are your plans for the future?”

Challenge him on any issue, like: does he make enough money to support a wife and to pay for big medical bills? Your purpose is to provoke him just enough to see how the glint in his eye and his body language changes. Then, revert back to asking general questions that put him at ease.

As you have both been talking, you have been looking in his eyes and watching his body language. He is now relaxed. Then, staring him intently in the eyes and leaning forward, ask in a slightly more forceful and intense tone, “When is the last time you looked at pornography?” You have already become familiar with his mannerisms after about fifteen minutes of talking. If, after this penetrating question, he can look you straight in the eye and say with confidence, “I have never looked at pornography,” then you can be fairly sure that he is telling the truth. However, if his face floods with guilt and he denies any involvement, you can be quite sure he is lying. If you think he is lying, tell him so, and then immediately ask him again. Only a very accomplished liar can stand up under a father’s stare in response to a question like that.

Don’t take shock for guilt. An innocent and naive young man who has been quite protected all his life may be shocked at the question. But if the kid looks like he just got caught with his hand in the cookie jar, you likely have a porno freak seeking your daughter’s hand. He may end up molesting your grandkids. He has failed the suitor test, not just by viewing pornography, but by lying about it. Even though he is unfit to be any girl’s husband at this point in his life, you might want to take the opportunity to counsel him for his own good. Warn him against the evils of pornography and tell him how it has disqualified him. Assure him that it is not too late to become a man of virtue, but it will take several years of “staying clean” before he could be trusted. Now, just in case you think I am being a little unreasonable, read the following two letters. We have received hundreds just like them.

Before you even bother to check up on references, and immediately upon being approached by each prospective suitor is your best moment to cut to the quick with him.

Dear Debi,

I almost want to die. Three years ago my parents chose Ben to be my husband. We were both homeschooled and involved in the same type of character-training programs. His parents were very keen on us marrying. Since I was 26 years old (he was 22) and had no other offers, I was really ready to marry. Ben's family knew (but did not tell my parents) that he had had problems with pornography. They had hoped that once he married he would be satisfied and give it up. That has proven to be a joke.

Ben had rather "do himself" than me. A habit of 10 years was just too much to break. He has "repented" and "confessed" more times than I can remember. He knows it is sin, but I am shocked that he thinks it is just not "that bad". He said all the guys look at pornography. Is that true? I fear for my daughters after discovering that he is now looking at dirty pictures of little children. He said it was his first time and that he didn't like it. I want to believe him, but it just makes me sick. How could this have happened to me when all I wanted was the will of God? What can I do?

Dear Debi,

I have a strange problem. I am 23 years old and have been married 3 months. Only once in all this time has my husband even kissed me. My parents know something is wrong because I can't keep from crying. My mother would be shocked to know that the reason I am crying is because I am still a virgin. I do not know what is wrong with John. He spends a lot of time with young teen guys in the church. He has them over to eat and watch movies. It seems harmless. His ministry (what he calls it) was one thing my parents liked about him. I have wonderful parents and was homeschooled. My parents (especially my mom) sorta arranged my marriage to John, who was part of a home-school group similar to ours.

You read the letters. It's horrible. It makes me sick. There are days when I dread seeing the mail. The parents and the church have failed these daughters of Eve. They had adopted a "system" that was supposed to work the will

of God. They assumed that if their daughters came to marriage through a courtship or betrothal process that they would be saved from worldliness and sin. Systems can offer good guidance, but they cannot eliminate the flesh. *All's hell that ends in hell.*

We get many letters from young wives whose husbands had never viewed pornography before marriage. Some of them were raised without television or videos. They thought *The Sound of Music* was what you hear in the department stores. They came to marriage as innocent as babes.

Their parents had protected them from every temptation and worldly allure. But when they got their own homes, at the first opportunity they followed the flesh with absolute abandonment. These young men would have answered all the questions to the satisfaction of any father. But they had never been tried. They had never learned to overcome temptation. Their religion was all hand-me-down. How can we fathers foresee this kind of pitfall ahead as we approach the "marriage" years of our daughters?

Let's go back to our conversation with the young suitor. I could also have asked him, "When is the last time you looked at pornography?" He says, "About two years ago." Without appearing shocked or put out, I ask, "How did it happen?" He tells me that he viewed it on the computer. "For how long?" He answers, "Several times a week." I continue asking. "What made you quit?" He proceeds to tell me how the Holy Spirit was grieved with his actions and how miserable he felt. So he confessed his sin and forsook it. "Are you still tempted to go back to it?" I enquire. "Yea," he answers, "But that is not what I want for my life. I want to walk in holiness and serve God."

Frankly, I had much rather hear something like this from a young man than to get a blank, dumb stare from

a mama's boy who has been sitting in his room doing his school lessons and has never been in situations where his character was tested.

What I really want to know is, does this young man know good and evil, and has he chosen the

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good? Wait until the boy has gone out into the world and comes back as an overcoming man, a survivor of every temptation, before you trust the genuineness of his Christianity as the real thing. The first step in Jesus' ministry was to face the full gamut of temptation with the master of temptation, and to prove his mettle.

I had one young man who was seeking one of my daughters tell me that it had "been two weeks" since he viewed pornography. I dismissed him with a derisive laugh. We may trust a man who has fallen into sin, but then repented and availed himself of the grace of God to establish an ongoing walk of holiness. But, a man who goes through cycles of sinning and repenting and then sinning again should no more be trusted than the Devil. A Christianity that does not **stop** someone from sinning is a false religion. We will befriend and be patient with such fellows in the church, but I don't want one of them as the husband of my daughter. Again I will say, I am not so concerned that a young man should have a squeaky-clean record as I am that he have a grace-clean heart and a sanctified will.

We're not there yet. This first, powerful question will eliminate 75% or more of the unfit suitors. If their answers and their heart have satisfied you so far, then you might want to ask, "Name the last ten movies you have watched, and tell me about them." Be advised, your daughters' and his children, your grandchildren, will grow up watching TV with him. Ask him what channel his car radio is tuned to, and the last three music CDs he purchased. Music both molds the soul and expresses it. A person is

defined by the music he prefers.

Ask him about his home life. "Are your parents happily married? Do you want your marriage to be like theirs?" Follow up with, "What is it that they do wrong/right, and what would you do differently?" It is a fact that the home life of a young man is predictive of how his home life will be with your daughter. If his father is an insensitive brute, remember that this young man has been molded in his father's image, for he received his worldview (family view) from his family.

Find out how he relates to his brothers and sisters. If he is fatherly and protective of his younger siblings, then he will be so with his own children. If he thinks they are brats and avoids them, then he is selfish and will not like his own children. How does he view his mother? That's how he will view his wife.

Pause for a moment and just look at him. He is relaxed again. You have gotten past the hard part, so he thinks. Let the pause be long enough for sobering effect. Establish eye contact now and ask, "Have you ever had sex with a girl?" If he answers that one OK, follow up with, "Have you ever had sexual contact with another male?" One fourth of the boys today have. You know him now. If there is any doubt, pursue it immediately. Look for signs of shame and lying. If you get past that, ask him if he has ever had sexual contact with an animal. A growing number of teenagers have. You'd better find out now before it's too late. You know the world you're living in is like Sodom and Gomorrah, but what you may not know is that the organized church today is right next door, like Lot's Zoar, right next to Sodom and Gomorrah. And, never forget the hold Sodom and Gomorrah had on Mrs. Lot. Don't let that happen to your daughter's children!

Yes, I know this is sick stuff. "For it is a shame to even to speak of those things that are done of them in secret" (Eph 5:12). So we submit to the shame for the sake of our daughters and our future heritage. I

could print letters that would shock you beyond belief. But they are just too dirty to be "laundered" in public. The church is chasing the world right to the dark gates of hell, but instead of converting it, the churches blend right in – right at the pit's mouth!



Somehow, by God's grace and mercy, we must match up righteous young men with righteous young ladies. We've got to muster up the urgency that Abraham and his servant Eliezer felt and acted on for their Isaac and his Rebecca. The future of the church as God designed it depends on it. God wants and deserves a faithful witness on this earth. When you finally get serious about putting the character of potential husbands for your daughters through the discriminating sieve of the Holy Spirit, you will end up setting aside most of the young men in your religious circle and community. Let the world wed the world and conceive their little devils of lust and licentiousness. **But let overcoming saints enter into holy matrimony with overcoming saints and bear the fruit of holiness and beauty.** "Be not unequally yoked together..." (2 Cor 6:14)

Dads, there is no question whatsoever that the task is daunting. How are two righteous kids, who are suited to a life together, going to find each other in the fog of sin and folly in which we all live? Pray. I say again a thousand times: pray. Plead with God and ask him for wisdom. Ask him for a miracle. When you do pray, you can fully expect the first three answers to be the Devil's counterfeit. God will permit you to be tested. You **will** need his divine wisdom. Ask of God, "who giveth to all men liberally and upbraided not."

So far we have just dealt with moral issues. We are wanting to make sure that he is one of the ten righteous that the angels could lead out of Sodom, not one like those who lusted after the angels and died in blindness.

In our day and age, purity is so rare, that to find an *overcoming young man* may be the only criterion you would want to consider. Who cares if he is dumb, ugly, socially embarrassing, can't read, and seems unable to make a living? Better to let them live down in your basement and feed them, while they sing, pray, and raise righteous kids.

OK, so we have gotten past the moral issues, and we are now getting excited. We have some real possibilities here. This guy loves

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the Lord, is walking in complete holiness, eschewing evil, witnessing to his lost acquaintances, studying his Bible, and wants to marry my daughter so he can raise little Christians. However, if you are blessed enough to be in a circle where there are two or more young men who qualify morally, you don't have

to settle for supporting a righteous but inept son-in-law. You can continue the elimination process by asking him, "What do you do for a living?" I remember one big ole, handsome boy, twenty three years old, sitting in our

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Trainers of the Month The Ledford Family!

The Ledfords' are designated No Greater Joy's Trainer of the Month. They will receive a \$50.00 gift certificate and a formal document suitable for framing. If you have a successful story of training, send it to us and we will consider you for our monthly award.



↑ "Animal Show" most have stuffed animals, but Andrew has the family dog. Dad judges each on following the directions and showmanship, ect. They always love it. I just laugh.



↑ My husband set up a wood shop in the basement this winter and the older kids really surprised us. With books from the library, they spent many hours hidden away working on gifts for christmas.

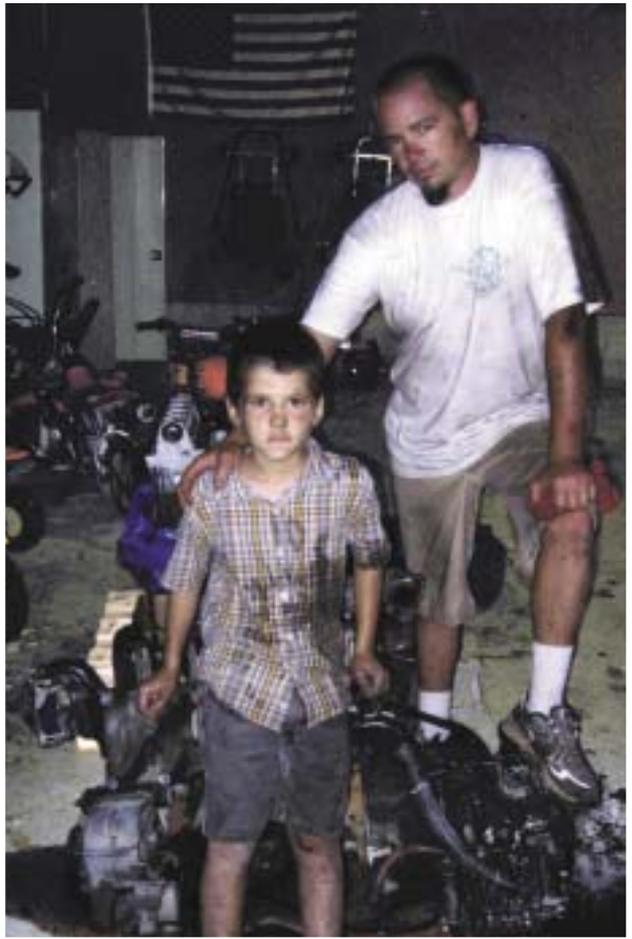


→ When all normal people go to their basements during high winds, my kids and husband try to see if they can "fly." It almost worked. 😊



- We have learned so much from the child training stories you have shared with us. The Ledford family sent in a picture album on training. The whole office enjoyed it, and we are sharing it with you.

-Debi Pearl



↑ Andrew and Dad pulled the motor on a turbo Dodge caravan.



↑ Anthony (4), riding a beat up Suzuki I actually bought at a garage sale for \$25. My husband had it running in 5 minutes.



Bulletin

Aaron and Hur

Our ministry was just coasting along until June 2004, when we put out the story about Aaron and Hur holding up Moses' arms during the battle between Israel and Amalek. We told you we were, like Moses, old and weary; and needed young strong families to join us in ministry by holding



us up in prayer. From that time, the ministry has continued to grow.

"The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16b). As our ministry grows our load gets heavier and we grow older we genuinely need you to pray for us and our staff as we continue to labor.

For those of you who are ministering with us in helping young, new families recover their marriages and train their children, we have a colorful, special sample *No Greater Joy* magazine available upon request (free, any quantity) that you can use to pass out to your homeschool group, church, neighborhood, etc. Just write to us or click on the "Aaron-Hur" icon on our home page at www.nogreaterjoy.org.

Crashed Internet and Late Magazines

When you go to our website and can't find the message that was supposed to be there, or can't make an order off the store, or if our magazine is late arriving, please know we are REALLY in need of your prayers. God has given a big ministry to some very average folks. We daily need Divine intervention and provision. Pray for us.

"But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence" (1Co 1:27).

Send Family Pictures

If you are one of the many families who downloads messages off the website, please send me a picture of your family. We will put it on the wall of the sound room, creating our "congregation," so that I can see you and pray for you as I record my weekly messages.

Send your pictures to:
No Greater Joy Ministries
1000 Pearl Road, Pleasantville TN 37033



"The Cast Iron Mike"



Twins

Coming soon!

We are working on a *No Greater Joy* magazine "Twins" edition. We need training ideas, funny stories, failure-and-victory accounts, and pictures from the real experts—Moms and Dads of Twins.

Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and *so much the more, as ye see the day approaching*" (Heb 10:23-25).

To the Ends of the Earth

While we were in Singapore renewing our visas, we decided to visit a Church that had donated a generator to the Hmong people. The Chinese pastor preached in English and we were all thrilled that his message was so Scriptural.



Later in the day we went to the Pastor's house to visit. He asked me where I worked and I told him No Greater Joy Ministries. His face revealed his shock, for he had been accessing our NGJ ministry website. He pulled out his little iPod and showed us that he had the whole book of Romans downloaded. It's free on the web, you know. He said that he personally knew of several men of God who are studying Mike's Romans messages and teaching them. It was thrilling to go to the other side of the world and discover that what we do in the office everyday is actually reaching people in other cultures in such a personal way. Truly our "labor in the Lord is not in vain."

Elizabeth, NGJ audio engineer and world traveler.



Romans Download

Yes, the entire audio teaching of the book of Romans by Michael is free for download on our website. This verse by verse teaching on the greatest of all New Testament books is continually setting people free from the bondage of sin and death.

If you haven't listened to anything by Michael or just haven't heard Romans, go to our website, www.nogreaterjoy.org, click on *Audio & Special Articles* in the *Catagories* list on the left side and select *Romans - Free Online Version*. Right-click onto the section you wish to download and select *Save Link As* to save it to onto your computer or just left-click the section title to listen to it online.

Who Is Your Man?

As my husband was sitting in the doctor's waiting room, he picked up an advertisement that someone left on the table. It was a page of the condensed version of "Who is your man?" from the *Created book*. To my knowledge this is the only time he has ever ordered a book from an ad. He gave me the book *Created To Be His Help Meet* for my birthday. It is wonderful. He read it too. I was surprised at his interest.

For years he has heard men at work complain about their wives, and it grieved him that he had no way to help. He told me he always felt so blessed in our relationship that he wanted to help others, and now he has a tool. He ordered his first case that week. Since then he has ordered several cases. My kind, gentle, quiet, steady man has a growing ministry helping the hurting families where he works. A day never passes at work but that some man (often several) comes by just to talk. This is truly a miracle.

I often think of the lady (although it could have been a man) who left the advertisement in the doctor's office. If you use my letter please make sure that you put Memphis at the end because I would love the person who left the ad to somehow know that lives are being touched because she was faithful to leave a small piece of paper lying on a table.

Please send me 100 of the *Who is Your Man?* advertisements. I want to be faithful too.

Carla from Memphis

The advertisement Carla mentioned is a folded flyer printed on both sides. The front has a brief description of the book, the inside has a condensed version of chapter 8 (Wisdom to Understand Your Man) and the back has testimonies and order/contact information. We would love to send these out free of charge to anyone willing to minister with them.



Leave one in your doctor's/dentist's/chiropractor's office, hand them out at a mom's meeting, put them on car windshields at homeschool conventions, pass them out at church, ect. If you want a simple way to minister that will make a eternal difference, this is it. The message of this book is changing lives, healing marriages and restoring families. Just send us a letter or email requesting the number of *Who is Your Man?* flyers you would like and the desired shipping address. A small donation is appreciated to help us cover expenses but is not necessary.

"But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully." 2 Cor 9:6

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living room, asking for permission to court one of my daughters. I asked him where he worked. Remember, now, he is 23. He said, “Well, right now I am out of a job.” I asked, “When did your last job terminate?” “Well, I was working for my uncle, but he doesn’t need any help right now.” So I asked, “How are you paying the note on your house and keeping up your car?” “Welllll...I’m living with my folks right now, and my car is broken down, so I am driving Dad’s old truck.” “I see. So when you get married, where are you going to live?” Welllll... (he rubs the back of his neck) I’ve been thinking about going back to school and learning some kind of trade.”

I looked at my wife and then looked at that 23-year-old dependent child and said, “Come back when you grow up, son.”

Dear Mike and Debi,

I am a 28-year-old mother of five, and I look to be 40 years old. I worry all the time about what we are going to do. I think I am going to have to put my children in public school and go to work. My husband is a good man, but he just can't seem to make a living. I hate to say it, but I think he is just plain lazy. My father was hard-working and always provided everything we needed. When I was twenty-one years old, my future husband (though I didn't know it at the time) approached my father and asked if he could commence courtship. He was a well-respected young man in our church who sometimes led in the worship services and taught Bible classes. He has always been pure and righteous. To make a long story short, we married. Everything started out great, but he came from a well-to-do family where he never really had any responsibility. He just hates any kind of work. He is full of dreams and big ideas, but he never seems to find the courage to do anything but talk. We live in an apartment above his parents' garage. His mother is always meddling in our family. I think that if I went to work, I could make enough money so we could rent our own place. I know that you teach that mothers should be

keepers at home, but what about in circumstances like mine?

We won’t print our answer to this young wife. It is not our subject at the moment, but it is all too common. Many homeschooled boys are lazy and never develop a will to suffer the pain of work. If a young man is not already supporting himself when he asks for your daughter’s hand, why would you expect him to do any better with a wife and a sick kid to keep up?

Let’s go back to our conversation with the prospective suitor. If this first visit goes well and the young man seems to qualify, tell him that you will talk to your daughter and get back with him. My daughters were real picky. They would boldly give a flat “No,” and I immediately passed it on to the young man. However, do the young man a service and say, “She says she is not interested.” My daughters were already acquainted with most of the fellows who came courting, but there were several who just walked in out of the blue. They wanted to be married to one of the “Pearl girls”. We fed them one meal and wished them luck somewhere else. We didn’t even let them stay and do the dishes.

However, if you feel good about a potential suitor, go to your daughter and ask her if she is open to getting better acquainted with this fellow. If she says yes, get ready to do a lot of chaperoning. It is usually pretty boring. The younger kids love it though. It gives them a lot to talk about, and they make a game of not letting the couple get away with anything. They are omnipresent. It is like having 24-hour, closed circuit surveillance of the courting couple.

Your second line of defense against a daughter ending up being unequally yoked together is her own God-endued wisdom. When my children were young, we constantly

evaluated people and their actions. We tried to make little psychologists out of them. We wanted them to be sharp in detecting dishonesty and impurity in others. There were many discussion with our daughters about men and their wily ways. We made sure that they had lots of social contact with many young men. There is no better way to make your daughter wise to men than to spend lots of time around them. We played volleyball several times a week, and we went to Bible studies and missionary conferences. They were acquainted with many couples and got to observe young husbands and wives

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interacting with each other. Through all of this, they assimilated the “training information” provided them and were able, independent of us, to form preferences and opinions as to what they liked and didn’t like in a man. They demonstrated that they

had gained wisdom, which in turn gave me liberty to have confidence in their judgment.

I would never have encouraged any young man to court my daughters if they had reservations about him. They are the one who is going to have to obey and honor this guy for the rest of their lives. We get many letters from wives who came to marriage through a betrothal system that left them out of the process. Father and Mother picked her husband, and daughter was expected to be respectful of their choice. After marriage, she had nothing in common with him, and is now miserable and living with a man she doesn’t even like.

I never felt so inadequate as a father than when it came to the moment of agreeing to husbands for my daughters. **None of them** picked the men that I would have chosen. Their choices had, of course, passed my preliminary questioning, but none of them were what I would have expected my daughters to have liked.

There. I have said it publicly. Sorry, sons-in-law, but you didn't marry me. You married my daughters whom I had trained so I could trust **their** choice, not mine! As I look at them now, I can see that each couple is perfectly suited. They are all delightfully happy and holy. Now I find it absolutely amazing that parents would think that they are wise enough to choose for their children – but then I sure thought I was. Before my sons found their own mates, I was actively seeking out and arranging for them to meet girls that I thought were absolutely perfect. They were great choices for my personality and preferences, but not for the boys. Now that they are both happily married, I can so easily see that their spouses are just *perfect* for them, but I couldn't see it before they were married. I knew they were fine girls, but they were not what I would have chosen when I was twenty-five years old. If my sons had married the girls I picked out, they likely would have been miserable. I guess some people have a taste for spinach, and others like green beans.

Another avenue to wisdom is your other children. When guys came around “checking” out our girls, my sons were the first to be aware of it. They made it a point to spend time with the fellows and “check **them** out.” Every time a fellow got

within reaching distance of one of my daughters, I asked my sons what they thought. If they didn't approve, I didn't approve, and my daughters so trusted their brothers' judgment that neither did they approve. My sons stood tall as guardians over their sisters, and we also received valuable input from the younger children.

Now, if you perceive that your wife or your other children are speaking from a selfish and controlling perspective, you will want to cautiously hold their opinions in abeyance. But anytime you perceive that the advice is coming from an honest and pure heart, consider their assessment fully.

One last wall of protection is the telephone. If someone came to your office seeking employment, you would naturally want to look down their back trail, their work history. If they have sued their last three employers, well. . .hmm. Call around and find out everything you can about this fellow. Drop in on him at work – unannounced. Visit his home. Talk with his parents. Speak to his pastor. Look at his room. Sit down at his computer and look up the history. And, if you know anybody in the FBI or Homeland Security. . .Hey, this guy is applying for a top position in your family! *Go at it like a cop.* Appear relaxed and casual of course, almost indifferent if you can. But, check

around and keep your eyes open for anything that smacks of negativity, especially if it contradicts information learned in your interviews with the young man.

Finally, you must not allow them to become deeply emotionally involved before the young man has been cleared. You know you can't slow down emotional attachments, but you can speed up your “investigation” efforts.

Finally, again do not allow any *courtship* to begin until both parties are ready to be married. My wife and I knew each other well before we got engaged, but our engagement was only six days long. Two or three months is generally long enough for love and passion to percolate. *When it comes time to eat supper, you shouldn't have to warm up your plate; just sit down and eat it while it is hot.* Lengthy warming tends to make a soggy meal. Human passion operates on a natural bell curve. Let it flow naturally. Frustrated love can only sour.

“There be three things which are too wonderful for me, yea, four which I know not: The way of an eagle in the air; the way of a serpent upon a rock; the way of a ship in the midst of the sea; and the way of a man with a maid” (Proverbs 30:18).

Long live holy matrimony, love and passion!

A Free Woman

I've been studying the word phobao, as in Ephesians 5:33, and telling others that it is not a wimpy word. Then I found phobos, as in Ephesians 5:21. If we do not phobos God as wives, and phobao our husbands, we do not love God. As I have shared this with many women, several had already heard of your Created to be His Help Meet book and suggested that I would like it. I've seen a big change in our home since I have studied this. Oh, what got me started was watching your video for wives “Marriage God's Way.” It pinned me to the mat. I had been married 23 years, but I was never so convicted of my sin as much as I was after viewing your video. I bought three of those videos, and many women have viewed them. Some were floored when they saw their sin, other were not moved at all. I plan to spread the truth of God's Word to wives with everyone I meet, so that I can help rescue women who do not phobos

God's word. Also, I read a newsletter from you years ago about husbands addicted to porn “Pornography-Road to Hell.” Michael wrote that if a wife could still be a godly wife to a husband addicted to porn, she would be his hero. With tears, I write that many times I wanted to quit our marriage, but his words have kept me going. I would probably be divorced if I hadn't read that newsletter. Thank you for boldly confronting this problem and encouraging women to live for God! After viewing the video for wives, I felt my sin so greatly that I never wanted to say another disrespectful word to my husband. I didn't want to judge him ever again, and I felt I had no right to. I was so grieved by my sin that his pornographic sin was erased from my mind. The next six weeks, I felt like a free woman. I look forward to reading your book!

P.

Provide Entertainment

By Michael Pearl

Our granddaughter, Gracie, is what many people call “a handful.” Her eyes are alive with investigation, always searching for opportunities to change her environment. She discovered her autonomy early, and now at sixteen months old, she is full of preferences. Yet Shalom her mother, has her firmly in hand. Gracie will stop on a dime, come when called, lay it down, and not touch it, all with enviable consistency. “How do you do it?” I asked Shalom.

She told me things I knew, some I had forgotten, but put together in such a way that it was fresh and original, with all the fat trimmed away. I was hearing **her** ideas, **her** wisdom. I was WOWED! There is nothing like coming fresh from the battle to have a clear perspective, free from academics. She spoke of commands, and switches, and consistency, but most of all she spoke of participation. Gracie participates in her mother’s life. She is never pushed aside. When Mama is working, Gracie has her little broom or dishrag and is right there doing her share. *Gracie is needed*, and she knows it, because she is included in the daily operation of life. She is not waiting to join the human race; she is walking the road of social responsibility right now at sixteen months of age! Gracie depends on the fellowship of life for her pleasure, not on the toy box off in another room. She is addicted to the communion of family and friends. She has a will to abide in their light.

Like any human being, Gracie is possessed of selfish flesh. She is



a potential devil-in-waiting, but her parents will not tolerate a single act of disobedience. When she shows a propensity to break with fellowship and act selfishly, she is rebuked and, if necessary, spanked immediately. She knows that she is not the final authority—that all her decisions are subject to her parents’ will. As she walks with her parents in the fellowship of life, she must follow the rules like everyone else. She expects this. It is the price to pay for walking in the light.

You know instantly when this fellowship of life is missing in children. Rather than possessing a will to cooperate, they develop and display a will to defy. We see those children assume the most obstinate position they can find and then dig in against an assault. Children who never find pleasure in participation,

seek pleasure in confrontation. It is a way for them to stay at the center of things and feel alive. You cannot spank that child into a state of grace. They view all discipline as confirmation of the state of war that exists between them and everyone else. The child walking in darkness may “obey” some of the time, but only to gain a little respite from the toil of war.

Some children use different weapons. Some may express their rebellion in passive ways, while others communicate that they are hurt or misunderstood. To many of them, life is just a pain that makes them feel like crying all the time. Mother pities them, and they walk on in unhappy darkness, needing the fellowship of life but finding

only aloneness. Mothers may smother these children in kisses and praise, yet fail to invite them to participate in the fellowship of life. They are living parallel lives in the same house.

There is nothing worse on a child’s self esteem than to be treated as one not yet ready to join the human race. When you don’t give children a focus, they focus on themselves—a most unhappy condition. When Gracie is rebuked or spanked for not obeying, she sometimes gets upset—emotionally wrought. At that point her parents find it difficult to communicate with her. She is no doubt thinking how mistreated she is, how deprived. She wanted her way—some forbidden pleasure—and “the big guys” are again constraining her to a behavior she would never choose for herself. There is a danger

at this point that the child will succumb to a willful desire to defy. But Shalom handles it with wisdom. When she sees that Gracie is upset for having her will thwarted and is wrestling with the unpleasantness of losing the confrontation, rather than to dwell on the unpleasantness and demand that Gracie get her attitude right, Shalom turns to her and unemotionally commands, "Gracie, take these clothes to the laundry," or "Gracie, pick up your toys." Shalom said that Gracie is so well conditioned to participation in the everyday family chores, that she will unthinkingly turn to obey any command. In so doing, she forgets about herself and steps

back into the fellowship of life. Her mother's goal is to restore Gracie to a walk of compliance, and as quickly as possible. Rather than allowing Grace to slump into her disappointment, she is led to step through a less emotional door, back into the path of cooperation and obedience. Any single true act of obedience translates into an obedient child.

Spanked as needed, Gracie is never broken; she is moment-to-moment subdued. Like a horse in harness, if the restraints were removed she would immediately run willfully. As long as she feels her parents' hands on the reins, she knows she is in a subservient role,

that there is no alternative. Her little eyes dart about with imagination, seeking opportunity to ride the wind to new delights. Just look into her face, and you instantly know that this little controlled explosion is having more fun right now than you have had in the last ten years. She is confident that her world is as secure as it is fun. She expects to share what you are eating and never fails to offer you a bit of hers. When she gets ready to go outside, she graces me with a gesture that says, "OK, Big Papa, it's your turn now; I'm ready when you are." Who can resist? I have just been waiting to go outside and jump on the trampoline with Gracie.

The Survival Game

It has been a chore to teach our two older children how to finish a job correctly, especially our oldest boy who is a wonderful 'block-head' and thinks that there must always be more than one way to do something correctly. He seems to have no desire to do a job conscientiously, just in name only. So after much prayer, God answered with "The Survival Game." The name stems from a talk Daddy had with the oldest boy on how to survive in the world. There are times when your very survival depends on your carrying out instructions to the very letter. So we created a survival game for our children.

The rules are simple. We made a chart and placed it conspicuously on our refrigerator. We had a great time decorating it. This chart has the names of the children playing and is broken into 4-week segments. Mama and Daddy show each child, one time, how a job is to be done. After that, it is up to the child to complete it on time and with the full intent of the instructions (e.g., to bring in enough wood to last the day and then to clean all the bark from the floor). When a task is completed correctly, then the child has survived that task and gets a mark on the chart. If, however, the task is not completed correctly (only enough wood for a few hours and stuff all over the floor), then the child gets a 'dead face' (or something silly, but to the point) and has, in effect, not survived. The child with the most 'survival marks' at the end of the week is allowed to stay up the following week 1/2 hour after bedtime, reading in his/her bed. The child who has survived the most at the end of the month is given his/her favorite candy bar.

This works really nice to help with the competitive spirit in the house, because we don't participate in sports, and it is done in such a friendly, silly way. The younger kids see the older siblings going about their tasks with such a glad spirit, that they do the same with theirs. By allowing the whole next week to be the prize of staying up late, it gives the losers time to reflect on how to improve and win the next week. And it puts a stop to Mama having to stand over the kids as they work.

Andrew Stucky

Download Bible Studies

I just wanted to write and tell you how much God is blessing me through the Bible messages online. I have been listening to the Roman series and I also listen to the weekly messages. The Lord has been preparing me for this teaching for some time now. I attend a Church of God and have been taught the do's and don'ts of Christianity; I took some pride in the commandments I could keep, but more often than not, I failed miserably. Praise God He has taken away all my confusion and is showing me the Truth. I just wanted to write a few lines to thank you for making the Bible messages available at no cost. I can't begin to tell you how the Truth of God is changing my life, and not just my life, but the life of my whole family.

In Christ, C. G.

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In addition to the entire set of Romans teaching being offered free online, we also post weekly Bible Messages every Saturday. These teaching are free for download and usually are about 20 minutes long. Though the subjects offered are varied, Michael has started teaching through the book of Mark as a series. To listen to these messages, go to: www.nogreaterjoy.org, click on *Calendar* in the *Catagories* list on the left side and select one of the *Saturday Bible Messages* to take you to a page listing all available messages.

Teenagers

By Rebekah Joy Anast



Calling all Teenagers... Normal, healthy, smart, beautiful, talented, needed, wonderful.... Hey - I'm talking to you. Tandy was 12 years old when the first boy gave her "the look" that sent a thrill right down her backbone. Her eyes sparkled, her skin glowed, and she felt beautiful from head to toe. David was a friend of her big brother, someone she saw once a year when they traveled as a family to attend the homeschool conference. He seemed like a good guy - as good as her brother. He liked her, and that made him alright. She tried to curb her loud laughter into a girlish giggle, and to be a little more helpless and feminine. Her brother noticed the change and looked at her like she'd turned into a two-headed lizard. When David joined them for the noon picnic Mom noticed the change in Tandy as well. She saw the nervous, compulsive glances David kept shooting at her innocent young daughter. Mom scowled and ran the boys off to play. While Mom and Tandy repacked the picnic leftovers, Mom was irritable and critical, treating Tandy as if she were six years old. Ordering her around like she didn't have a brain at all. Tandy didn't know that her Mom was remembering her own misspent youth, and realizing suddenly that her firstborn was on the brink of awakened sexuality. Tandy seethed at the unfairness. She felt like an intelligent individual with her own talents, gifts, and potential. *Why is Mom trying to cram me back down into childhood? I haven't done anything wrong.* Tandy thought about "the look" her brother's friend had given her and smiled. David knew she was growing up, and admired her. He was more perceptive than her

own Mom. The thrill and excitement of that glance was as wonderful as anything she'd ever known. She wished she could tell somebody about it... somebody that could confirm to her what she had seen in that glance, that she was indeed becoming a beautiful, attractive young lady. She needed somebody that could clue her in on what she should do about David's attention. She glanced at her Mom. *No way. She still thinks I'm six years old. She'd never understand. Daddy might.*

Tandy looked at her Dad. *I might try him later... something subtle, to see if he's noticed. I'll remind him that I'm almost 13 years old. See what he says... if he says he's noticed that I'm growing up lately, then maybe...* Tandy was once a little girl who babbled on and on about every single thing that crossed her mind. About the time she turned 8 years old her questions got more artful, less frequent, and were replaced with listening ears and watchful eyes. At 11 years of age, she began to keep a diary. It is locked up somewhere in her room, a record of secrets, questions and hopes. Now Mom and Dad have no idea what their daughter

really thinks. It's not that Tandy doesn't want to talk anymore. She still needs answers, maybe more than ever before. Many of her questions are answered by her parents' actions; and that may be sufficient to see her safely into the adult world, depending on the wisdom of their actions. However, to have the opportunity for verbal conversation would give

Tandy an advantage most teens don't have. The experience and maturity of her parents could become her own, if they learn how to make themselves a safe and available

source of wisdom. I asked myself this question:

Who do I go to for Answers?

1) A friend who likes me; because they have taken the time to get to know me. Many parents try to elicit a response from their unresponsive teenagers by overstating criticisms thoughtlessly: "You will never be a good man like your Daddy if you do that." "You will be a lousy mother if you don't learn to..." Your teenager ignores you completely, or gives you the deadpan I-don't-care glazed eyes. That look covers a world of hurt. He/she will remember every single word you say. To your teen, those desperate attempts to elicit response

Talking to your child about what he likes, what he thinks, what he hopes for, is a sure way to keep his heart.

sound like, “I don’t like you, I don’t love you, and I don’t care who you are.” You may be able to reverse the damage done, but it will take a lot of patience and involvement; a lot of genuine, positive conversations. It’s easier to start at the beginning. From the time your little boy is born you begin to realize what an individual he is. You see talents and abilities in your two year-old that you know he didn’t get from you. Talking to your child about what he likes, what he thinks, what he hopes for, is a sure way to keep his heart. He knows that you know him. You know him because you’ve asked, and listened. You’ve catered to his healthy interests by adding to his education and experience in the areas that he excels in, even when it’s beyond your own understanding. You have always talked to your son as though he were a friend that you *like*: someone that you admire, who has abilities that you don’t have, and talents that you haven’t acquired. He knows he is someone unique, gifted and great. When the girls start casting glances at him, he knows why. He knows he is becoming a man that will be capable of caring for a woman. He feels the responsibility of becoming a wise and strong protector. He knows that you trust him to make wise choices, because you’ve practiced decision making with him from the time he was quite small. You’ve discussed the quality and price of everything from pocket knives to potential wives. This wise young man would rather receive advice from you than anyone else, because you know him better than anyone else does. And you like him.

2) Someone who can give me useful, thoughtful answers that may solve my problem. If your teenage daughter wants to talk to you about her friend’s crush on the boy at church, listen: she is really asking you what she is supposed to do about her own feelings, and her own crush. “*How should I think about that boy at church? How should I act about the way I feel?*” Ask her what she thinks about her friend’s crush.

Let her verbally come to a place of accountability and responsibility in her own mind. Talk to her without silencing her with your preaching. Talk about feelings and physical attraction with respect, even if they are immature feelings and attractions. Explain the wealth of wonder and delight she (or her friend) can keep for herself by saving her emotions and body for the man she’ll marry someday. Tell her that she should

A mother or a father who could answer a teen’s most serious questions without creating new rules to squelch the questions, or shaming the questioner by being horrified, would be a God-send.

look at every boy that attracts her with these thoughts in mind, “*Would I want to be married to that guy? Is he the best there is? Is it time yet?*” When those questions are answered, your teenager will be released from the questions. The need to “find out” will be satisfied by you, her parent, and she’ll be able to go on to the next question, and the next step of maturity.

3) Someone who will regard their private knowledge of me with respect. It only takes one comment, one veiled reference, or one teasing joke linked to a private conversation, and a question asked in earnest to lose the confidence of your teenager. This seems overly sensitive and ridiculous. It is. But you won’t force your teenager into maturity by pointing out the fact that his treasure is actually trash. He might laugh at your joke and pretend not to care, but he won’t talk to you again. If you like to tease and joke a lot, tease and joke when you are hanging out together, doing things that he enjoys, without others around to laugh at your joke, which is told at your teen’s expense. When you are in the in-between phase of child-becoming-adult, your self-image is as awkward as your body. A 14-year-old boy doesn’t know who he is; he has no adult experience by which to define

himself. He hates himself violently every time he does or says something stupid because every word and action is so foundational and defining to the adult he is becoming.

Girls keep their diaries locked up and stamped with a big red PRIVATE, KEEP OUT because the diary is their confidante. It can’t answer their questions, but it won’t ever scorn, manipulate or shame them. A mother or a father who could answer a teen’s most serious questions without creating new rules to squelch the questions, or shaming the questioner by being horrified, would be a God-send.

The Answer to the Question

It seems to me that parents fall into one of three categories when it comes to answering their teenager’s questions:

No Answer: Either the parent is fearful of failing and gives no answer at all by saying “I don’t know,” “Read this book;” or adds a new rule or restriction to thrust the Questioner back into childhood so that the question is merely postponed.

Betrayal: The parent is joking, teasing, and gives a flippant answer that leaves the teenager fearful of being mocked or shamed. This also prevents a solid relationship for later needs.

Love: The parent responds with thoughtful consideration, giving the best answer they have which may or may not be the right answer, and respects the confidence of their teenager by dropping the subject when the teen is ready to drop it, and does not reveal the conversation to anyone else. If you were a teenager which response would you prefer?

Tandy’s Scared Parents

Cheri was raised in a regular American home. Her Mom had divorced and remarried a man who was not the father. When Cheri was about 12 years old, her friends began to date, and boys began to notice her. Cheri, for twelve years of life, had acquired the habit of doing whatever “felt good.” She had learned to go with the flow, to take the easy road,

and hope everything turns out alright. Cheri was not a bad kid, just an unprepared and undisciplined kid. When the hormones and sexual drives of puberty hit, Cheri's responses were consistent with her "training" up until that point. She knew certain things were wrong, but had no experience with weighing right and wrong, and making decisions that were contrary to her flesh. She had no strength to fight the indefinite, vague battle of virginity. It wasn't a matter of pursuing sin. The world offered a smorgasbord of fleshly satisfaction; and there simply wasn't a good reason, or a good habit, to keep her from making the easy choice. Cheri grew up and heard about Christ. She found forgiveness at the cross and left her past behind. She met and married a good Christian man. Cheri and her husband had children of their own. They read a good book about child training, and were consistent in following the Biblical principles of parenting. Cheri's daughters were raised in a completely different set of circumstances than those in which Cheri was raised. They learned discipline and wisdom, a strong work ethic and common sense from the way of life their parents had chosen. Then Cheri's daughter Tandy turned 12 years old. The first time Cheri saw her daughter flirting shyly with a boy, all the memories and confusion of her youth came rushing back to fill her with despair and anguish. It had begun.

WAIT, Cheri.

Your daughter isn't you. She wasn't raised like you were raised. She has an advantage you didn't have. **Don't confuse the hormones and the desires with the bad decisions and the sin.** The desire and the hormones are natural, God-created functions; and the choices made at this point in your daughter's life are not arbitrary choices.

As a matter of fact, because of good training and disciplined habits, she can, and will, make any choice she wants. Tandy will choose what seems best to her, because she has

the strength of character to do so. Unlike a child who has been trained only by their desires, your daughter has the wherewithal to stand up under pressure in order to get what she wants. This doesn't mean she'll choose the right thing, it just means she is capable (more capable than you were) of weighing her options and making decisions based on what she wants, rather than what feels good. **Now she needs to decide what she wants, and why.**

This is why Tandy needs good advice. Due to your own history, you may feel

Don't confuse the hormones and the desires with the bad decisions and the sin.

poorly equipped to give good advice. And you may be poorly equipped. That's alright. Tell her, "*I'm not sure what to tell you. But don't just do what's easiest; think ahead. Think of what you really want in life and wait for it. God will show you if you ask Him.*"

I would suggest studying good men. It may sound funny, but I'm quite serious. Research good men of history, men and women in the Bible, and in those in our present day. Take your daughter to places where there will be a lot of righteous young men. She'll recognize quality when she sees it compared with cheap goods, and her tastes will mature accordingly.

The Untrained Teen

If you have *not* trained your daughter, if your daughter is actually a young Cheri, then you do have cause to fear. It is too late to "train up your child" at this point. You don't have a child anymore. Now you must befriend a budding adult. However, every teenager wants the strength of character to walk past lust and reach an admired goal. Your untrained daughter really does want to make decisions that will pay off, even though she doesn't have the discipline to make it happen. If you befriend her, you may be able to lead her down that safe path by offering "self-improvement" through character

demanding activities. I suggest a sport, or some art form that takes a lot of discipline and focus; something your teen is interested in. Then pour yourself into keeping her immersed in the discipline, the practice, the preparation of becoming the best athlete, dancer, musician, engineer, etc... possible. Meanwhile, pray a lot (God can do miracles) and be her friend, and her confidante if possible. If you can win her confidence, she will value your advice, and your love and friendship will give her the strength to make the right choices.

Exceptions: If your teen is into some form of harmful deviation that will affect younger siblings (pornography, sexual activity, drug or alcohol abuse) you will need to take action as well as

listen and give advice. All things can, and must be done in love in order to be useful. You can lovingly give your teenager advice, and at the same time lay down an ultimatum; "*If you want to live in this house you will abide by these rules. Let's you and I get some counseling, or find some way to work this out... in any case I must separate you from the other kids.*"

Conclusion

Having the wisdom and advice of an adult that loves you is of great worth. It offers such safety and strength in a world where the questions are getting tougher by the day. I know that many of you parents grew up in terrible homes where there was only scorn and apathy. The teenager in you never grew up, and you feel just as scared of rejection as your kids do. The Bible says: *Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. John 15:13.* And again, *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. Romans 12:1* Your kids are your mission field. Hear the call to lay down your life for them. Get on that altar, take a deep breath, light that match and toss it in the tinder. Be vulnerable regardless of how critical *they* may be... and give your life for your teenager. ❖

What NGJ is doing now

Under Construction

The No Greater Joy office is currently being expanded to keep up with the demands. The sounds of hammering, sawing, air compressors kicking on, and paint drying should be over within a month or two.



Illustrated Bible Report

The Illustrated Bible project, outlined in the Jan/Feb 2006 issue of the magazine, is now in the hands of six missionaries. If you are a missionary who could use the material, please contact us and we will consider you for use of this tool.



By the Numbers

We now mail out **61,215** hard copy issues of *No Greater Joy* magazine bi-monthly. Of our online readers, **12,600** are signed up to receive an "Email Notification" that the latest issue of *No Greater Joy* has been posted on the website (click "Free Subscription" for this option.) Overseas/Canadian readers are encouraged to read the magazine online.

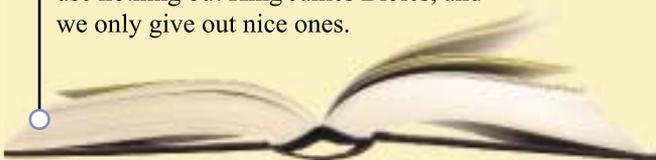


In January alone, there were **2,946** downloads of the free online Bible teachings.

We just unloaded two trucks totalling **50,000** new copies of *Created to be His Help Meet* into our new expanded warehouse area.

The Word at Work

Thank you for the many Bibles you have sent in. This keeps us from having to buy so many. We continue to give out Bibles to soldiers on active duty in Iraq and other parts of the world, to their families, and to the men in prison. We use nothing but King James Bibles, and we only give out nice ones.



My husband, deployed to Iraq, received the military care package I signed us up for. He read Pornography, Road to Hell. He said it broke him in half, and the way he relates to me has really changed. Our marriage is turning around, and I have more joy than I thought possible. God's work through you has really changed both of our lives, and made a man of God out of my husband. This way of life can be so hard, but you have eased some of our pain, and I thank you for that.

A grateful wife

We have sent out a total of **1,145** military packets to soldiers and their families, thus far. Keep sending in names and addresses via mail or our website (see soldiers icon on home page).

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8 Cassettes 2060-40 \$26.00
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Practical and Scriptural Bible teaching encourage the believer. Chapter 5 includes one tape on husbands and one on wives.

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All audio versions read by Michael Pearl

COLOSSIANS

If you enjoyed Romans, you need to hear Colossians. Learn about your spiritual circumcision. Rise to complete victory in knowledge that you indeed have risen with Christ and are an overcomer of the world, the flesh and the devil.

3 Cassettes 2050-40 \$12.00
5 CDs 2050-41 \$18.00

GALATIANS

Many professing Christians who don't have a personal relationship with Christ are seeking meaning in Rabbinical Judaism, keeping feast days and Sabbaths, and resorting to using Hebrew words for God and Jesus. Many are "falling from grace" in their attempt to give the Law of Moses a place in their daily lives. God gave us the book of Galatians to answer this ancient and now modern heresy.

6 Cassettes 3410-40 \$21.00
6 CDs 3410-41 \$21.00

HEBREWS

This is a book that will bless you like no other. As you study the book of Hebrews, you will not only learn about faith, you will actually have faith built into you by the Word of God.

11 Cassettes 3800-40 \$36.00
12 CDs 3800-45 \$36.00

FINALLY UNDERSTANDING

I am listening to the Romans series offered on-line. I was raised in a Reformed Southern Baptist Church and attended every Wed. & Sun. with my family. But through God opening my eyes (heart & understanding) and your teaching ability to make the complicated understood, I am hearing & understanding God's character & my sinfulness and other things in ways I never have. Thank you for your generosity in making this available. I cannot wait to continue verse by verse.

M.C.

Due to poor recording, the Ecclesiastes messages will be postponed until rerecorded. We apologize for the inconvenience.

Bible Topics

AM I SAVED?

This three message set: Born Again, Am I Saved? and Repent. Discusses the nature of repentance and faith as it pertains to salvation.

2 Cassettes 1310-40 \$10.00
2 CDs 1310-45 \$10.00

AUTHORITY PRAYING

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

1 Cassette 1330-40 \$5.00

BALAAH & HIS ASS

Insightful and entertaining story of Balaam and his ass.

1 Cassette 1405-40 \$5.00
1 CD 1405-45 \$5.00

BODY, SOUL, & SPIRIT

Five messages discussing the nature of man, temptation and sin, the sovereignty of God, and the free will of man. Illustrated diagram included.

3 Cassettes 1435-40 \$12.00
3 CDs 1435-45 \$12.00

BY DIVINE DESIGN

If you are philosophically minded, this book will appeal to you. Michael discusses some of the basic presuppositions that lead us to believe in and trust the unseen God. We are part of a great drama that is perfectly orchestrated by both the sovereignty of God and the free will of man.

85 pg. Book 2330-10 \$5.00
8-99 copies each \$3.00
100+ copies each \$2.50
3 Cassettes 2330-40 \$12.00

CHRONOLOGICAL PROPHECIES

The infidel is silenced with this irrefutable testimony of the Bible's accuracy.

1 Cassette 2080-40 \$5.00
1 CDs 2080-45 \$5.00

GENERATIONAL SINS

Michael Pearl addresses the faddish teaching on generational sins, sins of the fathers visited on the children, family curses, etc. Let the word of God free you from the curse of pop theology.

1 Cassette 3730-40 \$5.00
1 CD 3730-45 \$5.00

GOD'S ETERNAL PROGRAM

Most of Michael's tapes and CDs are teachings. This one is a sermon preached at a camp in California. It is fun and a blessing.

1 Cassette 3610-40 \$5.00
1 CD 3610-45 \$5.00

GOD HATES SINNERS

It's time you knew the truth.

1 CD 3615-45 \$5.00

REPENTANCE

When the Bible warns a sinner to repent, what is the nature of that repentance? Michael Pearl examines all 112 uses of 'repent' in the KJV. Designed to put hearts at rest in Christ, and correct error.

44 pg. Book 8120-10 \$4.00
8 or more copies \$2.75 ea.

RIGHTEOUSNESS

Four messages on salvation: Blood, Imputed Righteousness, The Man Christ Jesus, and Saving Righteousness

3 Cassettes 8135-40 \$12.00
4 CDs 8135-41 \$15.00

SABBATH REST

What does the Bible say about keeping the Sabbath, be it Saturday, Sunday, or Tuesday?

1 Cassette 8310-40 \$5.00
1 CD 8310-45 \$5.00

SANCTIFICATION

Three sermons by Michael Pearl contain the good news of complete and immediate deliverance from any and all sin by the miracle of the gospel alone.

3 Cassettes 8320-40 \$12.00
3 CDs 8320-41 \$12.00

SECURITY OF THE BELIEVER

You will be surprised at what you hear. The Church (at large) has been divided, both sides holding to a portion of Scripture while explaining away the other Scripture. Can one believe all the Scripture on both sides of the issue? Absolutely.

2 Cassettes 8322-40 \$10.00
3 CDs 8322-45 \$12.00

SINFUL NATURE

These four messages answer some of the ridiculous teachings of an ancient heresy sometimes called "Calvinism." For too long, Reformed theology has robbed the church of the power of God. The petals fall off of Calvin's tulip when it is held up to the light of Scripture.

3 Cassettes 8330-40 \$12.00
3 CDs 8330-45 \$12.00

SIN NO MORE

The big question is: "So how do I stop sinning?" You have confessed your sins, received the baptism of the Holy Ghost with evidence of everything but ceasing to sin; yet you are still a Romans 7 Christian. I assure you, God not only saves his children from the penalty of sin but he saves them from its power as well. You can stop sinning.

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9 CDs 8315-41 \$28.00

SONS OF GOD AND GIANTS

Little known and forgotten facts of early human history

1 Cassette 8336-40 \$5.00
1 CD 8336-45 \$5.00

WHEN FORGIVENESS IS A SIN

There are times when to forgive someone would be a grave sin.

1 Cassette 9580-40 \$5.00
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Bible Doctrine

Booklets & Posters

Booklets

All booklets are \$1 each or 60¢ each for 25 or more of any one of the below. These are great resources for teachers to use in Bible classes.

1 JOHN 1:9 THE PROTESTANT CONFESSIONAL

A core belief held by most conservative Christians is that Christians who have unconfessed sins in their life are in need of forgiveness, are out of fellowship with God, and are walking in darkness. The underlying assumption is that God forgives only sins that are confessed. What does the Bible teach? Does God withhold forgiveness until sin is confessed? Not on your life.

23 pg. Booklet 4650-10 \$1.00

BAPTISM IN JESUS' NAME

There are those who insist that New Testament water baptism is not valid unless the one doing the baptism vocally utters the words "in Jesus' name." It is the conclusion of this study that the verbal utterance is never an issue in Scripture. It is erroneous to insist on any certain phrase being pronounced over the baptized.

17 pg. Booklet 1410-10 \$1.00

IN DEFENSE OF BIBLICAL CHASTISEMENT

Michael brings clear understanding back into the confusing and often misunderstood subject of corporal chastisement. After firmly laying the Biblical foundation for chastisement, he then answers the question, "How do I apply corporal chastisement properly?" Finally, he shows the effectiveness of Biblical chastisement demonstrated in those families that practice it as taught.

29 pg. Booklet 4530-10 \$1.00

JUSTIFICATION AND THE BOOK OF JAMES

James clearly teaches that works justify a man, while Paul teaches that a man is not justified by works. Are they contradicting each other? Which one is correct? This study resolves the issue once and for all.

26 pg. Booklet 4960-10 \$1.00

PORNOGRAPHY - ROAD TO HELL

While most ministers avoid the subject, Michael Pearl addresses the deadly scourge of pornography head-on. He shows how repentance toward God and the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ can break the bondage of this wicked perversion through the abundant mercy and grace of a loving God. There is hope for the man caught in the snare of pornography and hope for the helpless, angry wife who finds it difficult to honor him.

12 pg. Booklet 7030-10 \$1.00

TO BETROTH OR NOT TO BETROTH

All Christian parents want their children to have God's first and best in all areas of their lives, and this includes marriage. In an effort to avoid the dangers of the modern dating game, families are giving attention to the concept of betrothal. The dangers of the betrothal system

are exposed with the light of Biblical truth, bringing objectivity back to an often-misunderstood subject.

28 pg. Booklet 1420-10 \$1.00

Posters

REVELATION POSTER AND HANDBOOK

This poster is a print of an original painting done by Michael Pearl which shows the events of Revelation in chronological order. It is 40"x19" on heavy, glossy paper. The handbook which accompanies it is filled with Old Testament references and commentary to the events in Revelation.

Poster 8130-10 \$12.00

Other Authors

WHICH VERSION IS THE BIBLE?

Author Floyd Jones. Answers all your questions about Bible versions. Proof that the King James Bible is the perfect Word of God to the English-speaking people.

Book 9510-10 \$10.00

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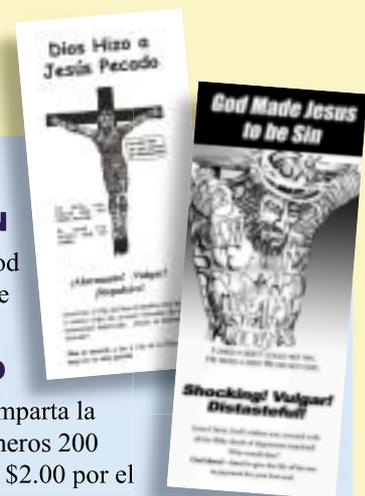
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Illustrated Gospel tract. Spread the Good Word of salvation. The first 200 are free upon request, plus \$2.00 postage.

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THE JOY OF TRAINING

Michael and Debi Pearl tell how they successfully trained up their five children with love, humor, the rod, and a King James Bible. The 2 DVD set contains the same high quality, digitally filmed content as the video set and hundreds of snapshots and video clips of family and children, illustrating the things being taught.

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From successful parents, learn how to train up your children rather than discipline them up. With humor and real-life examples, this book shows you how to train your children before the need to discipline arises. Be done with corrective discipline; make them allies rather than adversaries. The stress will be gone and your obedient children will praise you.

Book 8610-10 \$5.00
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Reprints of the first two years of No Greater Joy articles. Covers the subjects of sibling rivalry, pouting, bad attitudes, and much more.

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Get the No Greater Joy Series and To Train Up a Child in this four book set. This is a perfect gift for friends or anyone who is seeking help in parenting.

4 Book Set 3200-00 \$16.00

Kumboi village, Rebekah writes and sings songs about her God. She accompanies herself on a classical guitar.

1 CD 3020-41 \$8.00
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MY FAVORITE HOMESCHOOLING IDEAS

Debi Pearl discusses her best homeschooling ideas. 20-plus years of accumulated wisdom. This tape can remove your burden. It is our best-selling tape!

1 Cassette 6170-40 \$5.00
1 CD 6170-45 \$5.00

REBEKAH'S DIARY

Rebekah Pearl, (now Rebekah Anast) daughter of Michael and Debi Pearl, tells the awesome story of God's guidance and protection as she, a 22 year old girl, all alone, where no white person had ever been, adapted to a primitive culture.

106 pg. Book 7810-10 \$5.00
8-99 copies each \$3.00
100+ copies each \$2.50

STARTING OVER

The basic message, "OK, I know I've messed up in child training, now what do I do?"

1 Cassette 8338-40 \$5.00
1 CD 8338-45 \$5.00

TESTIMONY OF DARLENE ROSE

Hear the missionary story of Darlene Rose. Rebekah Pearl listened to these tapes when she was young. She says they helped mold her life toward missions.

2 Cassettes 8605-40 \$8.00

THE GAMI AKIJ STORY

Your heart will be stirred as Rebekah Pearl recounts how God prepared a people for Himself. The story of her time in the mountains of Papua New Guinea, translating the Kumboi language. Young people love it.

1 Cassette 3420-40 \$5.00

A-B-C BIBLE VERSE SONGS

Beka and some of the kids in the church sing the A-B-C Bible verse songs that her mother taught her when she was growing up. Your little ones will want to listen to this day and night, and by doing so they will learn 26 Bible verses, with the references. This is the smilingest tape you will ever hear.

1 Cassette 1010-40 \$5.00
1 CD 1010-45 \$5.00

ALABAMA SEMINAR

Two hours of Michael Pearl speaking on child training. These tapes are geared toward the father's role in the family. Tales of Mike and his sons' wild adventures. Boys love it!

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Songs by Rebekah Pearl. All alone in a bamboo hut on the top of a mountain in New Guinea, the first white woman ever seen by the

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What God is doing through this new book is amazing! We are receiving thousands of letters from people giving testimony to marriages restored and made new. Pastors, bookstores, and teachers are ordering and reordering cases. 296 Pages.

Book 2020-10 \$12.00

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FOR WOMEN ONLY

This book is based on surveys. It was a real eye-opener. Michael says it will help women understand men's thoughts and struggles.

Book 3210-10 \$8.50

HOLY SEX

Michael Pearl takes his readers through a refreshing journey of Biblical texts showing that God designed marriage to be the context of erotic pleasure. The world and the devil have attempted to make the subject of sex their domain. No longer.

82 pg. Book 4125-10 \$5.00

8-99 copies each \$3.00

100+ copies each \$2.50

MARRIAGE GOD'S WAY

Husbands, learn how to sanctify your wife and cleanse her of spots, wrinkles and blemishes. You have the power to bring your wife into the fullness of all that God intended her to be. Wives, learn the freedom of honoring and ministering to your man. You can help him become all that God intended him to be.

2 DVDs 4140-75 \$18.00

2 VHS 4140-70 \$18.00

ONLY MEN

Michael Pearl speaks directly and frankly to men about their responsibilities as husbands. Wives should not listen to this tape. We don't want you taking advantage of your man.

1 Cassette 6650-40 \$5.00

PANEL OF FIVE (LADIES)

Five wives whose husbands have far-reaching ministries speak out on what a woman can do to be a helper to her husband.

1 Cassette 7010-40 \$5.00

YOUNG ADULTS & MARRIAGE

This message, spoken by Michael Pearl in California, was given to help parents and their young adult children make wise decisions concerning marriage. It has the story of all five of our children finding their mates.

1 Cassette 9810-40 \$5.00

1 CD 9810-45 \$5.00

THANK YOU!!

After nearly three years of receiving NGJ, I am finally writing to say THANK YOU!!! I don't even want to think about where our family would be if we hadn't gotten ahold of your stuff. Thank you, Debi, for writing *Created to be His Help Meet*. I was killing my marriage. My hubby got me the book and us the videos for my birthday a year ago.

This last year has been good. And the last few months.... Really great!!! I only have one problem – I love him so much now that I nearly cry every morning when he leaves for work, and I have to stay very busy (not really TOO hard to do with my little boys:) so that I don't get lovesick ☺ Thank you so much! I now realize I am married to the best man on earth!
Amy

Co-laboring with Us

(A note to those who have sent in Bibles or money to buy Bibles)

Heb 13:1 Let brotherly love continue.

2 Be not forgetful to entertain strangers: for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

3 Remember them that are in bonds, as bound with them; and them which suffer adversity, as being yourselves also in the body.

From a Prisoner:

Dear Sir,

I would like to thank you for the large print Bible that you gave me Sunday 11/6/05. It has made Bible study a lot easier for me. I would also like to thank the person that you got the Bible from. There was writing in the front so I know that it had belonged to someone. Thank you all for your generosity,

Your Christian Friend,
Ben Franklin

Spirulina

Dear Mrs. Pearl,

I read your Created book and wish I could have your energy because if I did I think it would be easy to have joy. I am PG with my fourth child in four years. There is just not anything left in me to be cheerful with. Using a broom to sweep is hard enough, I can not imagine dancing with one. Am I a double dog sinner getting judged, or are you living in fluffy land? -June

Beka Joy Anast answers:

Feeling like a Super Mom?

I know how you feel because, "I've been there and done that..." Having one baby after another and keeping up with daily chores and winter sickness, etc. does take its toll. When I was growing up, my mom would often bring to my attention a few ladies that she knew who had bodies damaged by polio or severely handicapping accidents. These women were exceptional because they did not succumb to their physical handicaps. Instead, they were continually looking for diet, health, and exercise to help them be as strong as possible.

Being a "Super Mom" really starts in your spirit, and your attitude. "For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he" (Proverbs 23:7). These super moms found their own secrets to conquering Motherhood. I would like to tell you about something that has proven very beneficial to me. It's called Spirulina.

Spirulina is a natural food source that has 58 times the iron of raw spinach and 28 times that of raw beef liver. This food was a significant part of the Aztec and Mayan diets. It

contains more beta-carotene than any other whole food, and is very high in chlorophyll. It is 65% proteins and amino acids. This amazing food is the richest source of natural antioxidants of any whole food, containing every natural known antioxidant. NASA plans to grow this food on the space station, as it is one of the most efficient, oxygen generating foods in existence. It contains all the B vitamins, and is an extraordinary "transport" of other vitamins, allowing your body to actually benefit from all the other foods and vitamins you take. It is a blue-green algae that produces all its nutrients by harvesting sunlight. Since Spirulina has become so popular the world over, it is now cultivated in carefully controlled organic ponds, eliminating any possible toxicity. *Spirulina.com* is a great website with simple yet complete information on each step of the process of growing, harvesting, drying, and preserving the algae. It would be a good homeschool project just going through the site.

Eating Algae

How do you eat algae? Thanks to modern methods, it is much more pleasant than the way the Indians ate it. It now comes in a dried, powdered form that can be mixed with juice. My mom (from the old school that believes that good health means suffering gross tasting stuff) mixes powdered barley green, spirulina and fiber in water and drinks it down. Ugh! Spirulina does come in tablets that are easily swallowed, and without taste, so that is how I take it.

My first two pregnancies and births were quite hard, and my health was poor. I tried SO many vitamins, pre-natals, and herbal teas to keep myself up and functioning normally. I'm sure most of them helped, but I did not feel or see any difference until I discovered the **Supermom** tabs (with Spirulina) during my third pregnancy. For the first few days I detoxed big time, as the Spirulina and vitamins began to flush my body of old toxins; then my journey back to health began. My third pregnancy and birth was so incredibly different than the first two. No water retention, no extra weight gain or bad circulation, and no fatigue. My hair grew thick and shiny (and never fell out after the birth) and my nails became hard for the first time in my life. I was so changed, my husband began to take the **Supermom** tablets! There is nothing exclusively female about the ingredients (just the name) and he wanted the same energy I was experiencing. Bingo! It seems to help him as well.

There are many places that sell Spirulina products. As in any product, some will be better than others. Do research and find what is best for your own family's health. I use **Supermom** tablets that are available at **Beeyoutiful.com/ngj**

*Beka loves finding, researching and writing what she has learned about really good health products. If you have a health or beauty product that you have extreme confidence in, **Beeyoutiful.com** would like to try it.*

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

March - April 2006 Vol. 12 No. 2

On the Cover: Tim and his daughter Renee Stoll Cover Photo By: Clint Cearley

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Created to be His Help Meet, by Debi Pearl, is changing lives with it's direct, honest and sincere truth to wives concerning their roles as help meets.



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The book was written from a secular perspective, and is based on eye-opening surveys that reveal how men feel, think and react. Definitely worth the read.



Created to be His Help Meet cases:

Not only will you receive the 40% volume discount on unbroken boxes of 24 books but we'll now include 2 extra books FREE with each case. The box of 26 books are a great buy for entire church or homeschool groups!

Father's Day Special

Normally sold in a 24 CD set for \$65.00, *Matthew* is now available on a single CD in MP3* format for \$12.50. Purchase it as part of the Father's Day Special and get 3 study booklets free: 1 John 1:9 The Protestant Confessional, Justification and the Book of James, and Pornography - Road to Hell. (Special ends May 31st)

CD & Booklet Set 6020-50 \$12.50

Matthew, by Michael Pearl, opens new insights as he teaches verse-by-verse, describing it as the last book in the old covenant. A grasp of this unique book is essential to a proper understanding of the New Testament.



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