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NGJ

No Greater Joy

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





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

Gracie will be turning three in October. I told my mom last week that I was going to start schooling her this year, and Mom said, “You have been schooling her for almost three years now.” We get a lot of letters from young moms asking how to go about homeschooling their little ones. When a child is young, the parents’ training, teaching, and schooling is just a part of everyday life. At this age, children’s brains are just big sponges, and whatever you put there is what they will know. You might think they are too young to understand, but they are constantly learning things by building on what they already know.

I started teaching Gracie her letters when she was a newborn. I would say, “Look Gracie, this is your name, and this is the letter A.” She would just look up at me and grunt, but I knew that someday she would smile and identify the letter “A”. I was laying a foundation—for me, as well as for her. In everything we do, I am teaching her. “This is a blue blanket, a yellow balloon, a green shirt.” Never would I simply say, “This is a shirt, or that is a toy.” Everything has an opposite, or a contrast to something else, or a specific color, or it is long or short, or it matches this or that. Things are always described as “two toys”, or “one” car and “three” trucks, and on it goes. It never seemed odd to me that my two-year-old could read her letters and know all her colors, even differentiating between colors like peach and rose. As I write this, Gracie is sitting on the floor playing with Play-Dough and talking, “This is green pie and a blue plate setting on a white floor. Look, Mama, your skirt matches my shirt. I am making a round ball, but it looks like a square instead.”

Everyone laughed at me the day I went out and bought a bunch of Dollar Store school books when she was just a baby, and especially as I started going through them with her. But I just laughed right back, because I was having fun, and I was teaching my little girl how to read. She will always love to learn, because it has always been so much fun.

At work, she sits on my lap and watches me as I fill CD cases here at No Greater Joy. I count out loud, “There are one, two, three CDs in this case.” It never slows me down from my work, and counting is now a normal part of her life. If I had put her down on the floor to play and not talked to her, she would not have learned anything except that Mama’s hands move very fast. Following the scriptural pattern, I continually pour into her life “here a little, and there a little”. Over time, it has added up to quite a lot, with virtually no extra effort.

Isaiah 28:10

“For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little”





Don't send a *grandpa* to do a *mother's* work

By Michael Pearl



Photos: Elizabeth Stewart

Either I have forgotten what it is like to be solely responsible for a two-year-old, or I have gotten out of shape—both physically and mentally. My daughter Shoshanna left Jeremiah with Debi and me for the afternoon. Somehow, Deb had to go somewhere right before lunch, and I ended up with Jeremiah. No problem. I can handle kids. I prepared a good dinner, but he didn't want to eat anything except beans and cantaloupe.

Kids take a nap after eating, right? So he selected a book, and we sat in the rocking chair as I read the “exciting” story. I finished reading, and he still showed no signs of getting sleepy, but after having five children and watching my wife, I knew just what to do. I took him to our bedroom, and we lay down together. My plans were that as soon as he got to sleep, I would go back to work.

He kept fidgeting until he got bored, and then he started in on me. He climbed on me and jumped up and down like a bull rider. I bucked him off and told him in my most commanding voice, “Go to sleep.” Instead, he grabbed my nose and tried to unscrew it. My mother had it permanently attached, and it didn't come loose, but it was not his fault. I knocked his hand away and rapped him on the head with a knuckle before whining my protest. He lay still for a minute, and then out of nowhere, he hit me with a pillow and let out his inherited rebel yell. I was under assault, so I grabbed

a pillow and held it tight over my head so he couldn't hit me with his. He was still for a minute, and then I felt additional pillows being piled on top of the one already covering my head. He then threw the covers over the pile of well-placed pillows and pressed his body down on the top. He was trying to smother me to death! I ran out of air real fast and had to come up gasping. He rolled off the pile, but managed to bore his little finger into my belly button as he passed by. I catapulted him to the other side of the bed and commenced complaining strongly. He thought it was quite an achievement and complimented himself with a triumphant dance in the middle of the king-size bed.

Finally, I had had enough, so I searched into my past and found my scariest voice, commanded him in no uncertain terms that his mother expected him to take a nap, and that he was going to take a nap if we had to stay there all afternoon. He got quiet for the first time. Under my pile of protective pillows, I grinned my victory. A couple minutes passed, and I realized I had won, and I did it without having to read *To Train Up A Child!*

I was thinking, "In a minute he will be asleep, and I will be able to get up and go back to . . ." I heard a yell coming from somewhere far away, and I struggled to consciousness. I had been asleep! He put *me* to sleep!

I jumped up and staggered to the kitchen. He was standing in the middle of the floor with his legs spread apart, pointing to a pile . . . no, two piles . . . no, four or five piles . . . and a number of spears of brown, stinky, cantaloupe and beans poopoo—on my kitchen floor! He was whining and complaining and explaining why he could not go to the bathroom, because he couldn't undo the buttons on his pants. He was very unhappy with himself, and he blamed me for sleeping when I was supposed to be babysitting. At least, that's the way I interpreted his jabber.

I picked up the miserable little fellow, holding him at arm's length to avoid contamination. I regretted getting rid of that old 1950s bio suit last year. When I tried to put him into the tub, clothes and all, he began to resist. I later found out that he doesn't like to be in the tub. To hold on to him and get him undressed, I had to change my grip several times. You guessed it, I got contaminated. I didn't know whether to take my clothes off and get in the tub with him or to try to clean him up first. At the thought of sharing a tub with him, a premonition of impending disaster came over me. So I stripped him and washed him from head to foot—three times—him hollering the whole time. I knew he was going to tell bad things about me when the women showed up.

I then cleaned up the kitchen floor, but since I didn't have a change of clothes for him, I wrapped him in a towel and sat down to hold him until he went to sleep. He never did go to sleep. When the ladies returned, I handed him off to his mother and told them that I never could get him to take a nap. Shoshanna said, "Oh, I fed him and gave him a nap before I brought him over." Then from the kitchen I heard my wife ask, "What is this brown stuff on the floor?" Over my shoulder, as I was heading out the door, I said, "See you girls later. So long, poop head."

To all mothers of two-year-olds, you have my deepest respect.



BLAME

Blame was the second sin. Adam fell by eating the forbidden fruit, but he cut himself off from restoration when he blamed God for giving to him the woman who “caused” him to disobey. Eve ducked the accusing finger thrust at her and turned to blame the serpent. Yea, “*The Devil made me do it.*” And, the Devil blames God, as he did with Job. Even some Christian theology blames God. Blame shuts the door on repentance, for blame comes to us so much more easily than self-incrimination. *By Michael Pearl*

The first defense of a world that is lacking personal responsibility is to blame someone else. The serpent did his best in introducing sin into the world, and it is more than he could have ever hoped for. Today, parents blame each other. They blame their children. Children blame their brothers and sisters, and in time, they blame their parents for all their problems and faults.

Citizens blame the government. One half of the government blames the other half. The poor blame the rich. The rich blame the lazy. The lazy blame their lot in life on the lack of opportunity, and so it goes, singing the Devil’s song. If repentance is a mark of the Spirit’s work in a person’s life, blame is a mark of Satan’s work. As God inhabits the praise of his people, the Devil inhabits the bitterness of blame.

Blame takes less effort than a creative solution. Blame conceals personal guilt, inferiority, stupidity, and carelessness. It is easier to accuse another than to take responsibility. Blame is as useless as cussing the heavens . . . and just as sinful.

Now, why does a magazine dedicated to training up children have a discussion on the subject of blame? Because blaming your children comes all too easily and must be eliminated if you are going to save them from the jaws of destruction. If a painter paints a bad picture, would it be appropriate to blame the canvas? If a couple brings a brand new child into this world, and under their management he turns out poorly, who is to “blame”? Certainly not the child.

Let’s dissect this culprit. I see such a tendency in myself, one that is less manifest today than it was 25 years ago, but still there—a tendency to blame. I often laugh at myself. I am ridiculous, illogical, and even downright evil in my tendency. When anything goes wrong, I often feel the immediate impulse to blame—an irrational, unfounded compulsion. It usually doesn’t manifest itself in accusing anyone, for I quickly see myself just as would an outside observer, and laugh at the absurdity of it.

Those closest to us are the ones who get blamed the most. They are conveniently close targets. I remember when my children were all still at home, that anything got out of order, I “knew” one of the kids was to blame. If I couldn’t find a tool, it was, “Which one of you boys had the hammer?” I got so used to blaming them that five years after they were all gone, whenever I couldn’t find a tool, my first response was to blame them. For several years, I seriously suspected them of slipping back home and misplacing my tools. Who else would do it? After all, it is missing. It’s somebody’s fault. Even this very day, as I write this, I needed the rake and looked everywhere for it. I walked from place to place looking for it, and several times felt the spirit of blame. “Who took my rake?” When frustration comes upon us, blaming someone is an instant relief valve. Yes, I eventually remembered where I left it. And, yes, I was to blame, but I am not as hard on myself as I would have been on the kids for misplacing the rake. After all, I reason, I didn’t intend to hide it from myself, and it is my rake, so if I use it somewhere and forget it, then there is no blame for a poor memory. But what if someone else had been responsible for misplacing it? Well, then they would be to blame. That only makes sense in the emotions.

There are just my wife and I at home now. I have been aware of times when I find myself blaming her. “We are out of peanut butter, who ate the peanut butter and then failed to buy more?”

“Where are my glasses? I left them right here.”

“I don’t have any clean underwear!”

“We are overdrawn at the bank. Did you know we are overdrawn? Have you written any checks lately? Did you deposit the money?”

“Why isn’t supper ready? What have you been doing that caused you to forget supper?”

Have you ever railed on your wife or husband or children like that? What

in the world is **the purpose** of blaming them? To punish? To make the person ashamed? To let them know how unhappy we are with them? Do we think it is proper corrective rebuke? Does the person being blamed feel motivated to function more responsibly? How does blaming them make them feel?

I still cringe when I remember the times that I falsely blamed the kids, and upon discovering that I was responsible, failed to acknowledge my wrong. After all, I had found what I wanted. Get back to business. If they weren’t guilty this time, they usually are, so forget it, go on, no need to humble myself. They’re

Just as one must experience the sanctifying power of the Spirit, reckoning himself to be dead indeed unto all manner of sin, so one must reckon his tendency to blame to be dead.



just kids. **SOMEBODY, SLAP ME, PLEASE!** If I am an average representative of the human race, we should all go to hell in short order. There are more sins in the world than adultery, pornography, and Sodomy.

My children survived me. My wife is still surviving, and by the grace of God, we are all walking in harmony and sweet fellowship. I am thankful that the Spirit of God threw light on the dark corners of my unsanctified soul and saved me from myself, because runaway blame has destroyed more relationships than any other sin I know. I am not being religious when I tell you that walking in the light—after the Spirit of God—has saved me from being a purveyor of blame. Just as one must experience the sanctifying power of the Spirit, reckoning himself to be dead indeed unto all manner of sin, so one must reckon his tendency to blame to be dead. Only in Holy Spirit sanctification can we be free from this unclean spirit of humanity. And free we are—from moment to moment. (See my teaching series *Sin No More* for details.)

Now that I have been open and candid, let me turn on you for a moment. Do you have a tendency to blame others? Are you hurting the people around you? Do your children feel misunderstood? Have you ever heard one of them say, “Why is it always my fault?” To be blamed when it is not your fault is a miserable, helpless feeling—an awful sense of injustice. The frustration of being falsely accused stirs anger and resentment. It cuts deep, and over time, it leaves ugly scars. Would you dare ask your spouse and your children, “Have I been unreasonable and hasty in blaming you?” Once you drag this shadowy beast out into the light, he will look so disgusting that you will never want to be his partner again. In time, you, too, will laugh at your own human tendencies to blame. You will think yourself ridiculous, and you will become a heavenly spectator, sitting on the right hand of the Father, joining him in leaving this monster of blame in the grave where Christ placed him 2000 years ago. (See my *Romans* series for more details on the crucifixion of the Old Man.)

Finally, I shall answer one challenge that has become a point of reasonable defense for some of you. The carnally minded have an uncanny ability to find a loophole and hide their sin behind it. So, to all the resistant blamers, I answer your question, “Well, what if the other person really is to blame? What if my wife, my husband, and my children do act inappropriately? What if they are terribly wrong? What if they are blameworthy? Haven’t you blamed us for blame? Is blame always wrong?”

I truly hope that by now you can see that you are actually trying to justify your own sin. You are fighting the Spirit’s conviction. It is true that we are all to blame for many things. We are blameworthy. But, the big question is, who is worthy to blame us? There is a vast difference between functioning in our God-appointed roles as our children’s authorities, instructing, rebuking, and chastening them, and stomping around in a devilish spirit of blame. You can confront a child for his guilt—can blame him for the misdeed—without piling on him the ugly spirit of blame.

I have not spoken of the judicial aspect of discerning right from wrong and assigning blame. I have only addressed this ugly, driving predisposition to punishingly blame. You know the difference when you are on the other end. Your children know if they are being confronted for their actual misdeed or if they are just a convenient dumping ground for your blistering blame. God recognizes the difference. By His grace I have learned to recognize the difference. Your children recognize the difference. It is time for you to recognize it, as well.

A Calvinist mother:

Mr. Michael Pearl,

I just wanted to say “thank you” for your article “The Salvation of Children”. I have two sons who’ve died, one shortly after birth, and another who was stillborn. My firstborn died at a time in my life when I was 19, and I was struggling to try and understand God and let go of my idolatry. While many in the Church have been supportive and comforting about the death of my second son (as a covenant child), they have been forthright in their inability to offer comfort that I have any reason to hope to see my firstborn child in heaven one day. I had been told that because I was an unbeliever, there was no hope for the salvation of my child, no provision for him being mentioned in the bible. I’ve learned that the pain of losing a child through death is nothing compared to the pain of feeling personally responsible for the damnation of my beloved child.

Thank you for your article. It has helped me a great deal. I could not make peace with the idea that God would eternally damn my son for MY sins. It has brought me a lot of comfort to understand more about how God has made provisions for children who are unable to cry “Amen!”, nor reject His gift of salvation. - Warmly, J.P.

Dear Michael,

I had the awesome opportunity to be introduced to your teaching approximately 3 years ago by one of my very good friends. To be direct, I have read and listened to just about everything you have written or recorded and I felt led to tell you that I have never heard a person teach and expound the Word of God the way you do.

I listen to your CDs almost every day and have committed many to memory. I just want to say thanks for preaching and teaching the Word just the way it is written. I believe I have learned more from you than any pastor I have had the privilege of sitting under.

With that being said, I just read your March 2004 article on Prisoners Freed (for some reason I have not read the article even though I have visited your website hundreds of times) and was wandering if there was still a need for bibles to be sent to the guys in the prison. Just let me know and I will do the best I can with sending some your way. Thanks again for providing me with the truth. My life (and my doctrine) has been forever changed through your ministry. May God continue to bless both you and your family. - A.T.

Dear Michael and Debi,

My husband and I are so grateful for your ministry and the many materials you have made available on child training and good Bible teaching. We have been gleaning from these things for the past 8-9 years. The most exciting thing we see lately is how God has used Michael’s way of studying the Bible in my husband’s life. My husband is a natural teacher, and we have enjoyed his input in our homeschool. He has also taught a 1st-6th grade Sunday school class using the chronological method, with great success. About a year ago, God had us begin a home fellowship with other families. My husband has been the teacher, and has taught us the books of Mark, Philippians, and now Colossians. He uses the method of teaching verse by verse, and defining words using the Bible.

I can’t tell you how much this is impacting all of us, and we just want to say a great big thank you! Before, we had missed how the Words of God intertwine so clearly, from book to book. Now we see God’s message in context. Thank you so much-God has been good in you and your family! Please keep on ministering! - K.W.



It's possible to correct the future.

By Michael Pearl

I think I know the frustration of a doctor working the Saturday night shift in the trauma unit of a big city hospital. I receive so many letters of heartbreak and tragedy. In this ministry, we strive to help people stop the bleeding, save a life, a marriage, a family, a child, a soul.

The doctor must think, “If only...” If a doctor had a time machine, he could go back to Saturday morning and warn a young man about where his day will lead him—to a stretcher with plastic tubes his only life line, his back broken, his spinal cord severed, or one arm amputated. But we know that it is impossible to correct the past; yet it is still possible to correct the future.

I am 62 years old now, and have been ministering since I was 16. I have heard the stories and witnessed the lives of thousands of people. There comes a time when cause and effect become so apparent. Today, in our community when I see young couples just starting out, I know there is an “accident” waiting in the shadows for them. I could tell them what life holds, and warn them that it would not be pretty. I personally know families raising kids who will surely fail. Their children will crash and burn. It is as obvious to me as if it had already happened. No, it is not a prophetic ability, and in some of their cases, thankfully time will prove me wrong. But it will be the grace of God and the intervention of the Holy Spirit that will save them from the otherwise inevitable.

Many times when we are counseling someone and are listening to their story, it is so tragic and tangled that we have to reach out by faith to offer them any hope at all out of their mess. We feel like the doctor standing over the mangled body . . . if only. . . Many of you are glibly following a similar path to tragedy. We write to you, knowing from experience that we cannot correct the past, but Deb and I and the staff of No Greater Joy are here to try to correct the future.

Consider me a visitor from the future. My time machine has brought me to your home. I bring a warning for you. There is pain ahead on the course you are presently taking, but it is preventable. It is not too late to change the future. The formula is simple: To change the future, you must change the present. One last-minute act of desperation is not enough. You must change every day of your remaining time with your children in many ways. It is not too late to change the future, if you start now.



Dear Mike,

Praise the LORD!!! Thank you, thank you, and thank you...for splitting my heart wide open on this topic. I admit in my past I was a prisoner of this slavery and other predatory sexual activities toward women. Upon occasion, the temptations were blisteringly apparent. What you said in the article was very painful to read, but blissfully sweet at the same time.

I thank God immensely that you were willing to cut to the chase and are actually more concerned with saving souls than making sinners more comfortable in their sins. The emotional scars and damage inflicted will probably be with me until the return of our Lord, but I have no one to blame but MYSELF!

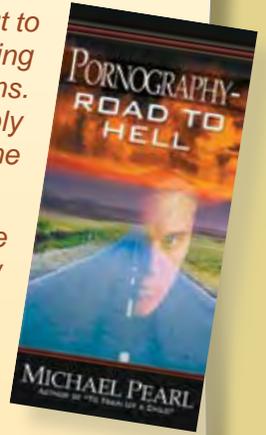
I, too, had a wife who confronted me, and thank the Lord, I came clean. She stayed with me and is now carrying our child only two weeks away from birth. And I want so desperately to be used of God in bringing our child to a saving faith and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Thanks so much, and may God bless and keep you.

Michael Writes:

This is just one example of the many letters we receive daily, telling of personal faith in Christ and of victory over sin. We also receive many letters from wives, weeping for their loss as their husbands play with themselves behind closed doors, viewing the Devil's high priestesses peddling the worship of the flesh. There are few things more disgusting. My greatest heroes are those women who endure this personal insult and wait for their husbands to repent. They have my deepest respect. If I should get any crown in heaven, I shall find such a faithful woman and place it upon her head.

Dear, suffering lady, know by this testimony and many others, there is hope, even in this life. Keep praying, keep loving, and wait upon God.





Not much scares me. I'm a young man, strong, fast, sharp, on the edge. I've hunted crocodiles out of dugout canoes in piranha-infested waters in the middle of the night. I go spear fishing in the ocean at night with just a flashlight and a spear gun, in 50 feet of water infested with prowling sharks. Not much bothers me. But one thing scares me. There is one critter I really respect: bears. Bears have it all. They are fast runners, much faster than the fastest man. With their quick paws, they can snatch fish and seal from the water. Tropical bears climb trees to drag monkeys from their safe perch. They don't even think twice about digging into an angry beehive. I guess you could say they have us humans beat in every physical respect. And, if you think that's bad, it's not even the worst; they have a temper that far exceeds their physical strength, which you will experience just trying to get close to one of their young. Afterwards, you will hear people say

BECOMING A BEAR

By Gabriel Pearl

things like, "Poor guy, wonder if he even saw it coming?" and "How long did you say it took the bear to do that to him? Terrible shame. He was a good guy". Don't let anybody tell you otherwise. The bear is a predator—never to be trusted.

Even in today's society, there are more predators than ever. You don't know who you can trust. You eat lunch with somebody at work for years, just to find out he abuses his daughters and their friends. It's very sad. God will rise up in judgment someday, and he will be strong, harsh, and completely righteous in his vengeance. Until that time, it's our job as parents to raise our kids to have a fair chance at life, not one of shame and remorse brought on by a moment of gratification for some lowlife you thought you could trust.

This past winter I was sitting up in my tree stand, deer hunting. It was a beautiful afternoon. Everything was perfect, wind, moon phase, temperature. Suddenly, from around the edge of the hill a deer came running. In one smooth motion I brought my gun up and flipped the safety off. The closer the deer got, the more I realized it was just a fawn. Some hunters would be bummed at this point, but I was stoked, because there is only one reason a fawn runs—coyote. I stayed paused and excited. Sure enough, the predator came running about a hundred yards back. Needless to say, it never knew what hit it. One second it's trying to get an easy meal off of a baby that got separated from its mother; the next moment, it's as dead as a tanned hide hanging on the wall. I like harvesting deer. They are good to eat. But I LOVE killing coyotes. They deserve it. They are cowards, picking on the small and weak.

When I was 11 years old, I went on a mule ride with my grandparents. It was a weekend of true hillbilly fun, riding miles in the summer heat all day long with a bunch of tobacco chewing, overall-wearing, heehaw looking good 'ole boys. It was a great time. The second day, I met this older gentleman, about 55 years old. He spoke well, was clean cut, and was better dressed than the rest of the bunch. He seemed to know my family and talked about my mom. He was definitely a good man. He said there was a nice trail around the lake that we could walk around first thing in the morning, and that we would see lots of snakes or turtles. That was all I needed to



know. The next morning at daylight he tapped on my tent. I was up in a second and ready to go. It took about an hour and a half to walk around the lake. We had a great time, but I only saw one snake.

When I got home, I told my parents how much fun we had riding mules, catching perch, walking around the lake. “Walking around the lake?” they asked. “Yeah, I met this really nice old guy. We walked around the lake. It’s ok, he knows you. His name is so and so.” Their faces turned ash grey. I knew it was serious. They said he was a pedophile from way back. Other kids had charged him, but nothing had ever stuck, and they had not seen him in years.

It wasn’t until a couple of years ago that I pondered back to that time at the mule ride and the gravity of the situation. Was I not his type? I doubt it. I was just a “cub”, and he was a seasoned coyote. So why did I go unscathed? It’s pretty clear to me now. It’s because I was a cub, and not a fawn. Sure, the cub might have wandered away from the den for the weekend, but the coyote knew there was not a tree too high, nor water too deep, and no way to outrun the wrath of the bear—my parents. Their reputations were known abroad, and the coyote knew that to mess with this cub was a sure way to lose what he loved most—and I don’t mean his freedom.

Some of you have fawns for children, and some of you have cubs. There is a big difference between the two in the mind of a coyote. Fawns are easy prey, and there are no consequences to the coyote if he eats one. But mama bear will have no mercy for the creature that dares to mess with her cub.

If you are a parent in today’s world, it’s your responsibility to be bearish about your children. People need to know, and coyotes need to know: If you mess with my cub, you get the full bear treatment. - *Gabe, www.pearloutdoors.com*

Get Real

By Michael Pearl

The “postmodern” churchmen tell us that religion needs to be made contemporary so it will appeal to young people. Is that so? Here is part of a letter I received just today from a “contemporary” teenager. She goes to public school.

“I am a 16-year-old girl, and I got saved one year ago. I recently attended a 'Christian Retreat.' The Chapels at this retreat were about as stupid as you can get. The music has lyrics like,

'i'm gonna sing like a saved person (x4)

Lalalalalalalala Lay' (x4)

The music is so loud it hurts your ears, and the speaker is a total gong-show. He's a contemporary youth pastor who cares more about looking cool and being funny than giving the gospel or something like that. He uses the watered down Bible versions, and he constantly goes off on sidetracks, telling about how he ran naked around the block or whatever, just to get a laugh.

He screams and jumps around like a banshee and compares John the Baptist to John Lennon. He also said that Jesus was 'subject to our interpretation'. He criticized the King James Version by saying that it's more like reading a Shakespeare play. He implied that it wasn't cool, that it was outdated and not for our generation. I happen to like it, but I know that I'm still very inexperienced.”

She says more, but I think you get the point. Young people who live for the flesh will come to your “religious” gatherings if you make it fleshly enough, which makes you more the disease than the doctor. I would rather have five sincere, godly young people attending a serious Bible study and prayer meeting than to have 200 rocking to the music.



YOUNG READER LOVES MAGAZINE

Pacea Domnului

That is how you say peace with God in the Moldovian Language. I was born in Moldova and came to America when I was about 6 years old. I just turned 14.

I started reading your magazine when I was 12. My older sister gets them and I am usually the first one to read them. My little brother really likes to read Pearloutdoors. My Dad and brother decided they were going to make the fishing trap (Sept- Oct issue), because they love fishing.

I really love all the articles on training your child. I read four of your books over and over. (To Train Up A Child, NGJ Volumes 1-3) I also listen to (The Ends of the Earth CD). When I earn more money I want to buy Rebekah's Diary and all the things that have to do with missionaries.

My sister bought a pack of “To Train Up A Child” books and I have been passing them out to friends, teachers and relatives. - Thank you, God bless your ministry, D.M.

Aloha Pearls,

Your magazines and tapes are a blessing. At the moment I am reading the “Eight Kingdoms” book and I'm really soaking it in! - Thanks, Cindy

Thanks for all you do. Your child training and “wife training” materials have literally saved my life. I had tried for years to be submissive but never really quite grasped all that it means until I read Debi's book. - M.D.



Show Me: *Gratefulness*

By Debi Pearl

Have you ever given a gift to a young teen and watched her face draw up with an expression that was half irritation and half mockery, vividly showing her disdain for your stupid choice?

If so, that was probably the last gift she ever got from you. Many parents constantly endure the face of an ungrateful child. Mother buys her an orange hat, and she pouts up because she bought the wrong color. Mom decides to delight the children by picking up a hamburger for everybody at the drive-through, but they start demanding to go into a restaurant and eat something different. When Mom takes a minute to go out and play with the kids, they complain that Mom is pushing Suzy higher than the rest of them. Their parents love them, but don't really like the selfish little brats. They are ashamed of their feelings of repulsion toward their own children, but, hey, I don't like ungrateful little people either.

Gratefulness is something kids learn by example: "Show me how you respond, and I will do it just like you."

I'm not real fond of "big" people, either, who are openly ungrateful. Are you? So, purge unthankfulness from your home by starting with yourself. Kids are great emulators.

As our ministry continues to expand rapidly, we become more of a target for the naysayers. Of late, we have two primary groups that oppose us.

The first group is a flock of homeschooling lesbians who attack us relentlessly on the web, and they call every church that we are to speak in, telling the pastor that they are going to come and protest our presence. They never have, and we have never had a meeting canceled because of them. The last church we were in just hired four security guards who were prepared to put on latex gloves and throw them out. The cowards never showed. They just hide behind the keyboard and represent themselves as homeschooling moms who oppose us. They are homeschoolers. They are moms and moms teaching children, but no dads. Sad to say, some “straight” moms have been snookered by their web diatribes and have joined them in accusing us. But, all in all, it is a small minority that is of no significance.

The second group that unsuccessfully tries to throw a cloud over our ministry publishes lies about our doctrine and practice. Since they first started, our mailing list has more than tripled. Out of thousands of letters, about once a month, we receive notification about our self-appointed enemies. Since we have extra space in the

magazine this issue, I thought I might amuse you with their charges and our answers. I won't bother responding to the lesbians. They are out in left field—somewhere under the bleachers.

Answering *the* Critics By Michael Pearl

“MICHAEL PEARL TEACHES THE HERESY OF SINLESS PERFECTION.”

One noted critic states on his web site:

“The most grievous error that I found in No Greater Joy Ministries is the heresy of sinless perfectionism or “entire” sanctification. We see this in the article “Living Parallel Lives in the Same Space” from the Jan./Feb. 2005 issue of No Greater Joy. The doctrine of perfectionism is first of all clear from what Michael Pearl plainly states. He has entitled his teaching “Sin No More” (p. 21). He says the doctrine of sanctification does not consist of “principles for you to apply” (p. 11), meaning there is nothing to do to achieve sinless sanctification but to understand and accept one’s position in Christ.”

Michael Answers: I am falsely accused of teaching the doctrine of sinless perfection, but I plead guilty to teaching that “the doctrine of sanctification does not consist of ‘principles for you to apply’, meaning, there is nothing to do to achieve... sanctification but to understand and accept one’s position in Christ.” Sounds good to me!

The accuser put the word “entire” in quotes as if he were quoting me. I have never used the terms “sinless perfection” or “entire sanctification,” nor have I taught

anything that is remotely similar. All one need do is search the web, or a good church history book, to determine the specifics of that heresy in history. The doctrine of sinless perfection is the belief that believers can have a second work of grace whereby the old nature is eradicated, making it impossible for them to sin again. There is nothing in my teaching that is similar in any way.

Either he has not familiarized himself with my teaching, or he has another agenda that provokes him to deliberately slander my Biblical doctrine. What could prompt a man to attack a ministry on such false premises?

My accuser admits in his diatribe against me that it is the name of the series that led him to conclude that I taught the old Salvation Army doctrine of “sinless perfection.” He did not listen to the audio teaching. He just read the title. My teaching on ceasing to sin is exactly what Baptists and other Bible-believing Christians have taught for 1900 years. It is not new, and it is certainly not heretical, except in a modern church that preaches that there is no provision in Christ for overcoming all sin.

My series, *Sin No More*, does not teach that it is possible in this life to achieve a “state” whereby it is impossible to sin—as does the doctrine of sinless perfection. I teach that through our death with Christ and participation in his resurrection, it is possible in this life, moment by moment, temptation by temptation, to reckon one’s self dead indeed unto sin but alive unto God and, thereby, to fulfill Christ’s command to “sin no more”. There is no such condition as being unable to sin, but the Christian is able not to sin. Why does that bother some people? Shouldn’t we expect our ministers to obey God in all things, to walk in holiness both publicly and privately—all the time?

In this age of carelessness and antinomian Christianity, where preachers walk after the flesh, embezzle money, commit adultery or sodomy, and where worship leaders are found guilty of fornication, I am gratified to be accused of teaching a “heresy” that we should and can sin no more. It is an honor to be criticized for saying that I have been enjoying the blessing of the sanctifying power of the gospel of Jesus Christ. I have never said I am sinless. How could I? I have a wife and family who know me too well!

If my material is read and understood, the only thing you could accuse me of is helping people to stop sinning. So what is the problem? The women whose husbands have ceased pornography or adultery are not complaining about their husbands listening to the series “Sin No More.” The men who have overcome their anger and lust through reckoning themselves to be dead to sin are not accusing me of heresy. The murderers and rapists in prison who have listened to my teaching and then been released back onto the streets to sin no more are not accusing me of heresy. It is people who are comfortable with the modern belief and practice that we are all slaves to sin and cannot overcome temptations in this life, who are hasty to draw false conclusions about what I teach, simply based on the title of an audio message. I take the misinformed criticism as a compliment to my teaching, an honor to God, and a recommendation for the gospel of deliverance from sin.

“MICHAEL PEARL IS A PELAGIAN.”

Michael Answers: Sounds downright scary—a Pelagian! I remembered studying this when I was in Bible College, but I had forgotten the details of what Pelagius taught, so I looked it up in several books and on the web to see if Pelagius was also a Bible believer and taught the truth as I do. If so, I would be proud to be identified with him or anyone else who believes the Word of God. But, no, sorry, I am not a Pelagian, and if someone today taught what it is reported that he taught, I would be among the first to condemn the teaching.

So, the person who charges me with this ancient, fifth-century heresy shows complete ignorance of Pelagianism or of my Biblical doctrine.

In 411 A. D., Paulinus of Milan came up with a list of six heretical points in the Pelagian message. Keep in mind as you read these six charges, that they are the historical record of what he believed.

- (1) Adam was created mortal and would have died whether he had sinned or not;
- (2) The sin of Adam injured himself alone, not the whole human race;
- (3) Newborn children are in the same state as Adam was before his fall;
- (4) Neither by the death and sin of Adam does the whole human race die, nor will it rise because of the resurrection of Christ;
- (5) The law as well as the gospel offers entrance to the Kingdom of Heaven; and
- (6) Even before the coming of Christ, there were men wholly without sin.

The above list is the historical doctrine of Pelagius. I do not agree with any of the 6 points.

A historian has written: “It is purported by those who charged Pelagius with heresy that he taught that the human will, tempered in good deeds and rigorous asceticism, was sufficient to live a sinless life. According to historical documents, he told his followers that right action on the part of human beings was all that was necessary for salvation. To him, the grace of God was only an added advantage; helpful, but in no way essential. Pelagius disbelieved in original sin, but said that Adam had condemned humankind through bad example, and that Christ’s good example offered humanity a path to salvation, not through sacrifice, but through instruction of the will. Jerome emerged as one of the chief critics of Pelagianism, because, according to Jerome, Pelagius’ view essentially denied the work of the Messiah; he personally preferring ‘teacher’ or ‘master’ to any epithet implying divine power.”

That is so far from what I teach that it makes one wonder what it is in my teaching that really bothers my critics. So, you can tell the parrots who repeat this false charge that they are falsely accusing the brethren—normally Satan’s job.

“MICHAEL PEARL IS AN ARMINIAN.”

Michael Answers: That doesn’t mean from Armenia, a republic in western Asia. It means different things to different people, but to a Calvinist, it is anyone who is not a five-point Calvinist. But I can emphatically state that I am not a follower of Jacobus Arminius (1560-1609), any more than I am a follower of Augustine or Calvin.

Arminianism was started by Jacobus Arminius, who was born slightly before John Calvin died. He was actually taught by Calvin’s son-in-law and adhered to Calvinist teachings until one day, when forced to defend his beliefs, he found that his opponent could more ably defend his views against Calvinism. This caused Arminius to reject his Calvinistic background and seek to modify Calvinism so that God might not be considered the author of sin, nor man an automaton in the hands of God.

We read on a Calvinist’s web site: “Arminianism is the theological basis for the Methodist, Wesleyan, Nazarene, Pentecostal, Free Will Baptist, Holiness, and many charismatic churches.”

Arminius was just a backslidden Calvinist who tried to modify Calvinism. He is too Calvinistic for me. So my detractors will have to find someone far more to the right if they want to identify me with some historical position.

Only Calvinists call people Arminians, because they find it easier to build a straw

man than to deal with a Bible believer's true position. So, to them it is an "either/or" position that one must take. Either you are a Calvinist who believes in God's sovereignty, or you are an Arminian who believes in salvation by works and eternal insecurity.

"At the heart of the controversy between Calvinism and Arminianism is the emphasis on the sovereignty of God by the Calvinists and on the free will of man, or human responsibility, by the Arminians. Arminian theology teaches that man has free will and that God will never interrupt or take that free will away, that God has obligated Himself to respect the free moral agency and capacity of free choice with which He created us. Calvinism, on the other hand, emphasizes that God is in total control of everything, and that nothing can happen that He does not plan and direct, including man's salvation. Both doctrinal positions are logical, both have Scriptures to back up each of their five points, and both are, in my opinion, partially right and partially wrong." (Larry Taylor).

As Philip Schaff put it in his History of the Christian Church, "Calvinism emphasizes divine sovereignty and free grace; Arminianism emphasizes human responsibility. The one restricts the saving grace to the elect; the other extends it to all men on the condition of faith.

Both are right in what they assert; both are wrong in what they deny. If one important truth is pressed to the exclusion of another truth of equal importance, it becomes an error, and loses its hold upon the conscience. The Bible

gives us a theology which is more human than Calvinism and more divine than Arminianism, and more Christian than either of them."

Although I am not a Calvinist, many Calvinists who hear me preach say that I sound like one. I am just a Bible believer. I don't need to reduce it to a philosophy. I believe all that it teaches. I am not uncomfortable with any passage. I don't find it necessary to switch translations to prove my point or to ignore some Scripture while emphasizing others.

You many call me what you like. What is important to me is that my kids call me often, and that my grandkids call me Big Papa, and the inmates in hundreds of prisons call me a saint. But best of all, God has called me, and continues to call me His without distinction.

Brother Mike,

I just wanted to tell you how much I appreciate all the work you have done to tell people the TRUTH. I have always had questions and even criticized people who only use the KJV. I'm a firm believer in it now after reading "Which version is the Bible". My wife put her NIV in the trash. I am also on my 3rd time listening to the Romans series. You have to keep listening for it to sink in; So much truth! We as Christians must hunger and thirst for truth. It's what's missing in our Christian society today. Thank you and God bless you and your family. My life has been changed by you teaching truth to a biblically watered down church. - Thanks again. W.N.

SIN NO MORE

Thank you for your godly, Biblical stand in these days. Our son struggles with various issues, and your CD set "Sin No More" has been a great help to him.

God bless you, S.S.

From Our Military

My husband was deployed to Iraq last October. We learned of your ministry through one of his co-workers, and our views on parenting have drastically changed for the better. We want to extend our sincerest thanks and appreciation for the soldier/soldier's wife care packages. As the wife waiting at home, I have felt very isolated, and it has been a joy to be recipients of your generosity and to learn of your ministry. - Thank you, J. and B.

No Greater Joy

Thank you for the care package. We sincerely appreciate your support. I have made the contents available to all my soldiers just after I received it and only a few pamphlets and CDs remain. Again, we sincerely thank you, as we need and appreciate your support. - M.W.

Hi!

I received a package from you in Iraq. Thank you so much for thinking & praying for us soldiers over here. It was such an encouragement.

The things you sent were so nice. The other soldiers really enjoyed the books; we shared it all with everybody.

Thank you for your support! - Sincerely, A.B.

Dear Pearl Family,

I cannot begin to describe what a blessing your military ministry is to our family. After 4 months of my husband's deployment (and looking at 11 more with an infant) I was beginning to let the day - to - day grind get between me and God. Thus depression was beginning to sneak in.

One day as I sat on the couch trying desperately to hold back the tears & smile for my little guy, I received a care package from you. What a blessing! God has already been using "To Train Up A Child" to do wonderful things in our family.

I am anxious to see how He uses "Created To Be His Help Meet". Thank you for allowing God to use you to bless our military families! - Yours, J.S.

Dear Michael & Debi,

You recently sent me the military package for wives and I must say, I was overwhelmed by your generosity. I've listened to your "Alabama Seminar" CDs and read the "Created To Be His Help Meet" book and enjoyed them both.

My husband just returned from Iraq so I'm able to share what I've gleaned. Our son loves the ABC Bible verses CD. (He already knows the funny parts about the lamb, lion etc).

I think the book that really touched my heart was the "No Greater Joy Vol II" book. I now see the difference between merely coexisting as parent & child and living in relationship with lives that connect instead of simply running parallel.

While my husband was deployed I raised our newborn girl and our 4 year old son who has never lived with his daddy (deployed before). Life was tough; nobody could have prepared me for the regression I'd experience with my son

and all the medical problems that arose with our daughter. During my husband's deployment I learned what unconditional love truly is!

My tendency is to be more like "Martha". I have an organized, managerial style that is both a blessing & hindrance. The Lord revealed to me that I being the only parent available, being a parent comes first. I think I had this flipped around.

Thank you for reminding me of what truly is important. I needed to be reminded of what I know God has been telling me.

I appreciate & thank you for your ministry & the blessing you are to our military community. - A.E.

Dear Pearl Family,

Thank you for my wonderful care package. I was so surprised. I've enjoyed everything and can't pick a favorite. I was highly impressed with the "Good & Evil" book, I love media that can capture a lost generation's attention and this book can.

P.S. I love the knife throwing DVD! Thank you for living for God.
- A Military Wife

Michael & Debi,

Thanks so much for the military packages you have sent our way. They have been a real blessing and we purchased a case of "To Train Up A Child" for the new dads in the unit.

Your ministry has made a huge impact on my family. I now have three godly, well-behaved children, thanks to the training methods we have learned from you. - Blessings in Christ, J.M.

Dear Pearls,

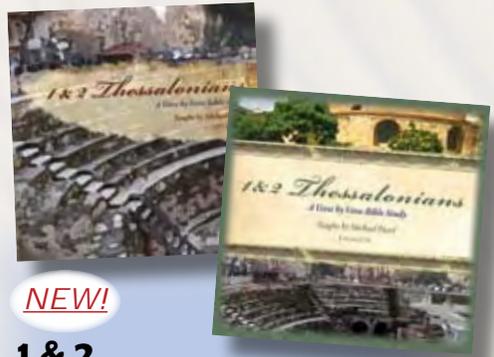
Thank you for the wonderful Military package I received from you. It certainly brightened my day!!!!

Thank you for thinking of the military wives and including them in your prayers and gifts. That means a lot; so often they get forgotten and it gets pretty lonely.

- J.H.

Thank you very much for the books CD's & other items I've passed them around to my soldiers. I gave some items with our Chaplain.

- Thanks again, Capt. S.O.



NEW!

1 & 2

Thessalonians

Taught by Michael Pearl

The Apostle Paul writes to his favorite church, the one that had been faithful under persecution. He commends them like no other church of the first century, telling them that they are his "crown of rejoicing", his example to the other churches. He said they gave him a reason to live and to continue his ministry.

In his first letter he comforts them concerning their dead loved ones by affirming the Rapture and second coming of our Lord. In his second letter, written about one year later, he corrects a false impression that the day of the Lord was at hand, and then gives them some of the most practical teaching found in the New Testament. Did you know that if a preacher doesn't work he shouldn't eat? How practical is that?

8440-45 8 Audio CDs \$25.00

8440-55 1 MP3 CD \$12.50

From Prisoners and Chaplains

Hello, I'm in prison. I saw and read a book called "Good & Evil" by Michael Pearl. Within the last few months I have turned my life over to God. When I read that book it helped me with reading the Bible.

I would like to have a copy of my own. I can't seem to find one here in prison. If you can send me one I would greatly appreciate it.
- Thank you, P.H., P.S. God bless you - I love that book

Dear Brethren,

The results in prison have been phenomenal. I have been uncovering conversions that have occurred through the reading of this book. I will type a couple of these out verbatim and send them to you via email soon. I hope & pray the LORD continues to provide the manna needed to you.

Additionally, I shared this book with my son-in-law to be, a good Baptist young man. He is excited about it. He plans on sharing it with his pastor and trying to get it into the hands of all the youth in the church. I further suggested that the youth might take this on as a project of handing these out to as many of their friends as they could. The Gospel of Jesus Christ will, I believe, spread through this tool. - J C

Dear Brethren,

Again, thank you for the generous gift of *Good and Evil*. The response continues to be to the praise of God's glory! The men are eagerly accepting, even snatching, at the offer of an Illustrated Bible.

I have had numerous conversions testified to me by the Inmate telling of reading through *Good & Evil* and understanding for the first time his sin, what God has done in Jesus, and his desperate desire not to go to hell with his pleading to God for forgiveness. I have been stunned. My head chaplain has come across this type of testimony as well and is 100% on board with the continued distribution of these books.

I praise God. It has also reached a point of guys writing to the Chapel telling me they have heard of this Good & Evil "cartoon bible" from other Inmates and could they please have one?

May God continue to bless you with His resources for His work. - For Christ's Crown & Covenant, Pastor/Chaplain Jim Claycomb

Dear Michael & Debi Pearl,

I am filled with such gratitude to you both for your overwhelming generosity. When we received the *Good & Evil* books in both Spanish & English I cried. Not because I was sad but because I was joyful. I know how much everyone in our facility that has read the book enjoys it and now we will be able to get it into even more hands.

The other day an inmate came to the Religious Library, it was his first time and he said to me, "I don't read very well can you recommend something?" I immediately gave him a copy of *Good & Evil* I knew the pictures would help him to understand what he was reading and the comic book look of the book draws people to it. When he opened the cover he smiled and I knew I had put the perfect book into his hands. Before he left the room he had shown it to others and they were all talking about it. When he finishes

the book I'm sure he'll be back to look for other books, all because of one amazing book titled "Good & Evil".

I would also like to thank you for the booklet "Pornography-Road to Hell" and the "God Made Jesus to be Sin" tract in both English & Spanish. The more good reading material we have for our men and women behind bars, the better chance we have of changing their lives for the better.

Praise the Lord that you followed your dream and have blessed so many with this wonderful one-of-a-kind book. And praise the Lord for your generous heart. Thank you again and again for generosity. - God Bless, J. Yates, Chaplain's Assistant

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Pearl

Once again you have blessed the inmates here at Howard McLeod Correctional Center with the *Good & Evil* book and "Pornography Road to Hell" tracts.

I thank you for the blessing and I thank Jesus for putting it on your hearts to be so obedient to His Word.

You have blessed people who otherwise would not have been blessed had it not been for your generosity. You have broken through the language barrier with the Spanish version of the *Good & Evil* book and you have reached people who would not have ordinarily picked up a Bible at all. I'm surprised at how interested people are in reading *Good & Evil*. I believe you have planted some good seed that will multiply for years to come on generations that seemed lost. I pray that your ministry will continue to grow and that you will continue to edify God as you do.

Thank you again for all you have done for this prison. The brothers here will keep you in our prayers. - God bless you! W.T.

READER GIFT TO PRISON MINISTRY - G&E

Dear Friends in Christ,

I was blessed to read about prisons in your NGJ this month because my dear husband spent 25 years being an assistant to a chaplain in the Norristown, PA prison years ago.

He had the privilege to work with a young man and pray for him. My husband went home to be with the Lord three years ago. When the fellow got out of prison he became a youth worker and followed the Lord, so some do come forth as gold.

Enclosed is a gift to use as you see fit, perhaps helping to send *Good & Evil* to the prisons. - Love in Christ, J.L.



NOW AVAILABLE!

El Bien y El Mal, parte 1

Good and Evil Color Comic, chapter 1 in Spanish!

1 book \$2.99 each

25 or more \$2.00 each



*Hosea 4:6 “My people
are destroyed for lack
of knowledge.”*

*Proverbs 18:15 “The
heart of the prudent
getteth knowledge; and
the ear of the wise seeketh
knowledge.”*

Big Foot *By Debi Pearl*

Do you have swollen feet? It is not only uncomfortable; it can also be a threat to your health. If you don't think it is serious enough yet to consult a doctor, I can give you a natural remedy with no side effects but very effective in relieving the swelling.

- *Switch from store-bought salt to sea salt for your family.
- *Stop eating salty foods, which would include chips, fries, popcorn, etc.
- *Stop adding any extra salt on your food.
- *Every day, eat raw vegetables such as celery, parsley, cabbage, etc.
- *Start adding a little sesame seed oil to your daily diet.
- *Learn to snack on unsalted seeds and nuts.

To make it easy to maintain this with your regular diet, keep a pitcher of herbal Swelling Relief Tea in the refrigerator. Every morning, put a cup of the herbal liquid in the blender and add a stalk of celery, a teaspoon of sesame seeds, a teaspoon of sesame oil, and a spoonful of green drink powder. Blend, and drink your swelling away. Be careful, your ring might fall off.

Swelling Relief Tea includes corn silk, which is a diuretic and an anti-septic. It is also good for kidney function. Stinging Nettle is high in potassium and chlorophyll and is an excellent diuretic. Citrus peel helps reduce muscle spasms and can help correct varicose veins. Cinnamon is helpful in maintaining blood sugar and is an anti-septic. You can get this delicious tea from **www.Bulkherbstore.com, 1-877-278-4257.**

Sea salt, sesame seed, and sesame oil can be bought in most health food grocery stores. Green drinks are also readily available from many sources. I use Barley Life Xtra because it is good for me, and it tastes so good! (www.4abundanthealth.com)

Research and be well.



DISTRIBUTOR TESTIMONY

Ever since being given *To Train up a Child* in 1995 our family has been learning from the Pearl's practical Biblical teaching. As new materials came out my parents and I took turns buying them.

We enjoyed the materials so much that a few years ago, before the distributorship program came about; we bought cases of books and other specials to give out to individuals. It was really exciting to hear about the distributor program because with the large discounts on all NGJ's materials, we would be able to expand our ministry.

Since becoming a master distributor, I have had the opportunity to speak with many people at conferences and homeschool book sales which I would not otherwise have been able to encourage and help. It is exciting to see the Lord work through these materials and change lives for His glory.

The need for sound Biblical teaching is great. What better way to fill the need than to become a distributor for "No Greater Joy Ministries".

Foundational Family Resources



What Are YOU Waiting For?

In July 2006 we started two new home-based business programs custom-made for families just like yours. Within our first year 175 individuals and families joined. Our website, www.nogreaterjoy.org, gives a detailed outline (look here first for all the particulars), how it works, the cost, and how your family can get started right away! This is a good way for you to minister and to make extra income at the same time.

NGJ now has over 221 Distributors and Master Distributors in 12 countries. In the U.S. 40 states are represented. Our goal is to have at least 300 distributors over the next year. We are adding new features to make the program even more exciting and profitable for you.

Existing Distributors

Available upon request:

- Your complete contact information on our website
- A listing of home school conventions in your area. Home school conventions are usually from February to August each year.
- Images and product descriptions for you to use on your website or advertising
- Answers to your merchandising or marketing questions

**For more information or to sign up,
contact our General Manager:**

Mel Cohen, CFP, RFC

Phone: 931-593-2484

Email: melcohen@hughes.net

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Pearl,

I need help. I'm so depressed. I'm a selfish, self-righteous, prideful, lying, angry person and I hate myself. The more I've tried seeking God and the Scriptures, the more I see how I'm unlike Christ. I have no self-control. Everyone sees me as a godly person, but they don't see I'm truly a monster that deserves hell. I'm a good pretender. I've often thought about suicide. I've tried believing God. Every time I truly believe I am free from sin through faith, that's when I sin. I just want to inflict pain upon myself. What do I do? Will I ever be free and perfect and righteous? Please help me. - L.

Read her response after reading this article (page 30).

Can You Believe It?

Spurgeon says, "Christ died for the ungodly."

Read what one ungodly woman experienced.

GOD JUSTIFIETH THE UNGODLY

HIS MESSAGE is for you. You will find the text in the Epistle to the Romans, in the fourth chapter and the fifth verse:

To him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.

I call your attention to those words, "*Him that justifieth the ungodly.*" They seem to me to be very wonderful words.

Are you not surprised that there should be such an expression as that in the Bible, "That justifieth the ungodly?" I have heard that men that hate the doctrines of the cross bring it as a charge against God, that He saves wicked men and receives to Himself the vilest of the vile. See how this Scripture accepts the charge, and plainly states it! By the mouth of His servant Paul, by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, He takes to Himself the title of "Him that justifieth the ungodly." He makes those just who are unjust, forgives those who deserve to be punished, and favors those who deserve no favor. You thought, did you not, that salvation was for the good? that God's grace was for the pure and holy, who are free from sin? It has fallen into your mind that, if you were excellent, then God would reward you; and you have thought that because you are not worthy, therefore there could be no way of your enjoying His favor. You must be somewhat surprised to read a text like this: "Him that justifieth the ungodly. " I do not wonder that you are surprised; for with all my familiarity with the great grace of God, I never cease to wonder at it. It does sound surprising, does it not, that it should be possible for a holy God to justify an unholy man? We, according to the natural legality of our hearts, are always talking about our own goodness and our own worthiness, and we stubbornly hold to it that there must be somewhat in us in order to win the notice of

God. Now, God, who sees through all deceptions, knows that there is no goodness whatever in us. He says that “there is none righteous, no not one.” He knows that “all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags,” and, therefore the Lord Jesus did not come into the world to look after goodness and righteousness with him, and to bestow them upon persons who have none of them. He comes, not because we are just, but to make us so: he justifieth the ungodly.

When a counsellor comes into court, if he is an honest man, he desires to plead the case of an innocent person and justify him before the court from the things which are falsely laid to his charge. It should be the lawyer’s object to justify the innocent person, and he should not attempt to screen the guilty party. It lies not in man’s right nor in man’s power truly to justify the guilty. This is a miracle reserved for the Lord alone. God, the infinitely just Sovereign, knows that there is not a just man upon earth that doeth good and sinneth not, and therefore, in the infinite sovereignty of His divine nature and in the splendor of His ineffable love, He undertakes the task, not so much of justifying the just as of justifying the ungodly. God has devised ways and means of making the ungodly man to stand justly accepted before Him: He has set up a system by which with perfect justice He can treat the guilty as if he had been all his life free from offence, yea, can treat him as if he were wholly free from sin. He justifieth the ungodly.

Jesus Christ came into the world to save *sinner*s. It is a very surprising thing—a thing to be marveled at most of all by those who enjoy it. I know that it is to me even to this day the greatest wonder that I ever heard of, that God should ever justify *me*. I feel myself to be a lump of unworthiness, a mass of corruption, and a heap of sin, apart from His almighty love. I know by a full assurance that I am justified by faith which is in Christ Jesus, and treated as if I had been perfectly just, and made an heir of God and a joint heir with Christ; and yet by nature I must take my place among the most sinful. I, who am altogether undeserving, am treated as if I had been deserving. I am loved with as much love as if I had always been godly, whereas aforetime I was ungodly. Who can help being astonished at this? Gratitude for such favor stands dressed in robes of wonder.

Now, while this is very surprising, I want you to notice how available it makes the gospel to you and to me. If God justifieth the *ungodly*, then, dear friend, He can justify *you*. Is not that the very kind of person that you are? If you are unconverted at this moment, it is a very proper description of you; you have lived without God, you have been the reverse of godly; in one word, you have been and are *ungodly*. Perhaps you have not even attended a place of worship on Sunday, but have lived in disregard of God’s day, and house, and Word—this proves you to have been ungodly. Sadder still, it may be you have even tried to doubt God’s existence, and have gone the length of saying that you did so. You have lived on this fair earth, which is full of the tokens of God’s presence, and all the while you have shut your eyes to the clear evidences of His power and Godhead. You have lived as if there were no God. Indeed, you would have been very pleased if you could have demonstrated to yourself to a certainty that there was no God whatever. Possibly you have lived a great many years in this way, so that you are now pretty well settled in your ways, and yet God is not in any of them. If you were labeled

UNGODLY

it would as well describe you as if the sea were to be labeled *salt water*. Would it not?

Possibly you are a person of another sort; you have regularly attended to all the outward forms of religion, and yet you have had no heart in them at all, but

have been really ungodly. Though meeting with the people of God, you have never met with God for yourself; you have been in the choir, and yet have not praised the Lord with your heart. You have lived without any love to God in your heart, or regard to his commands in your life. Well, you are just the kind of man to whom this gospel is sent—this gospel which says that God justifieth *the ungodly*. It is very wonderful, but it is happily available for you. It just suits you. Does it not? How I wish that you would accept it! If you are a sensible man, you will see the remarkable grace of God in providing for such as you are, and you will say to yourself, “Justify the ungodly! Why, then, should not I be justified, and justified at once?”

Now, observe further, that *it must be so*—that the salvation of God is for those who do not deserve it, and have no preparation for it. It is reasonable that the statement should be put in the Bible; for, dear friend, no others need justifying but those who have no justification of their own. If any of my readers are perfectly righteous, they want no justifying. You feel that you are doing your duty well, and almost putting heaven under an obligation to you. What do you want with a Saviour, or with mercy? What do you want with justification? You will be tired of my book by this time, for it will have no interest to you.

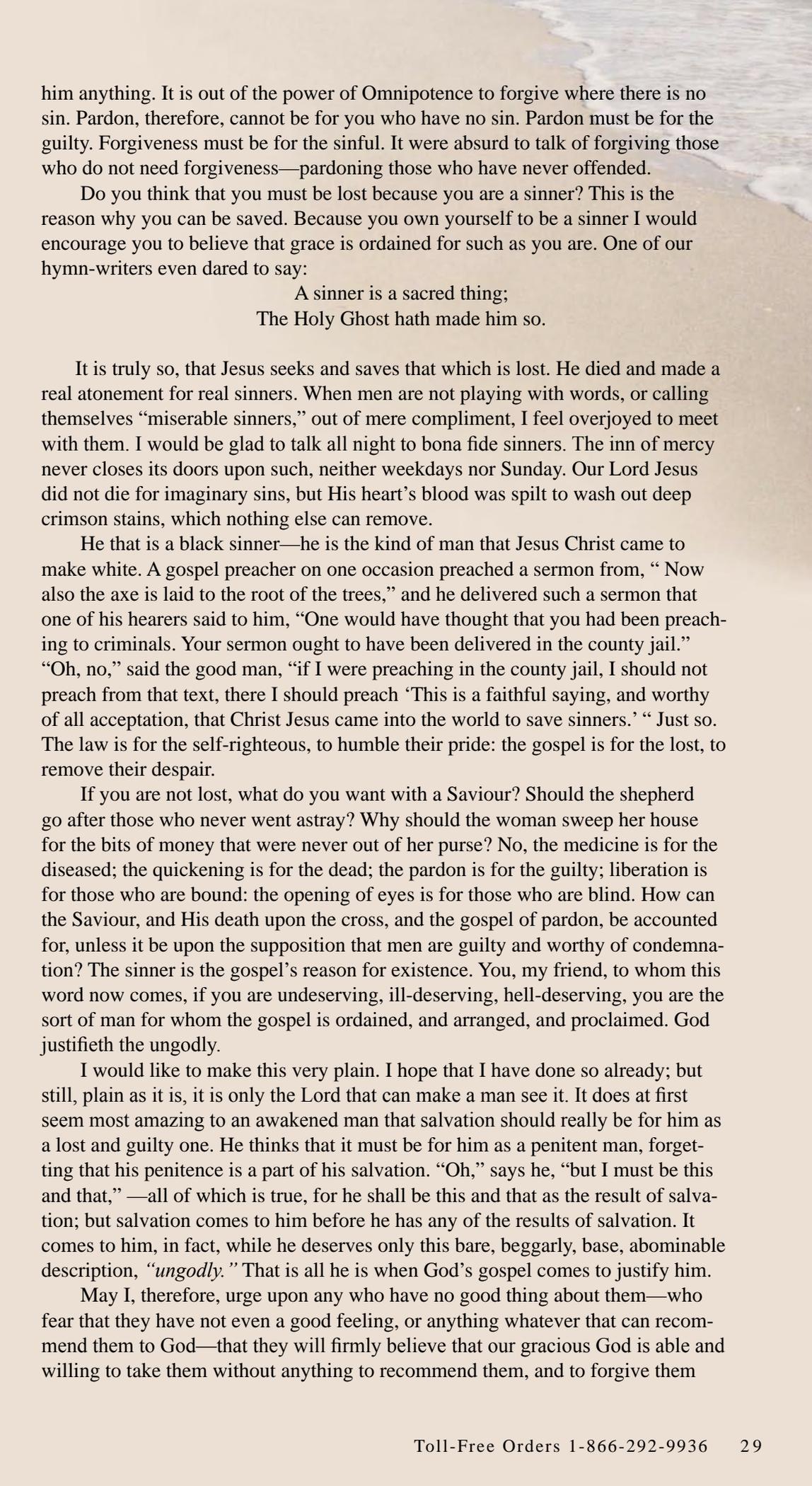
If any of you are giving yourselves such proud airs, listen to me for a little while. You will be lost, as sure as you are alive. You righteous men, whose righteousness is all of your own working, are either deceivers or deceived; for the Scripture cannot lie, and it saith plainly, “*There is none righteous, no, not one.*” In any case I have no gospel to preach to the self-righteous, no, not a word of it. Jesus Christ himself came not to call the righteous, and I am not going to do what He did not do. If I called you, you would not come, and, therefore, I will not call you, under that character. No, I bid you rather look at that righteousness of yours till you see what a delusion it is. It is not half so substantial as a cobweb. Have done with it! Flee from it! Oh believe that the only persons that can need justification are those who are not in themselves just! They need that something should be done for them to make them just before the judgment seat of God. Depend upon

it, the Lord only does that which is needful. Infinite wisdom never attempts that which is unnecessary. Jesus never undertakes that which is superfluous. To make him just who is just is no work for God—that were a labor for a fool; but to make him just who is unjust—that is work for infinite love and mercy. To justify the ungodly—this is a miracle worthy of a God. And for certain it is so.

Now, look. If there be anywhere in the world a physician who has discovered sure and precious remedies, to whom is that physician sent? To those who are perfectly healthy?

I think not. Put him down in a district where there are no sick persons, and he feels that he is not in his place. There is nothing for him to do. “The whole have no need of a physician, but they that are sick.” Is it not equally clear that the great remedies of grace and redemption are for the sick in soul? They cannot be for the whole, for they cannot be of use to such. If you, dear friend, feel that you are spiritually sick, the Physician has come into the world for you. If you are altogether undone by reason of your sin, you are the very person aimed at in the plan of salvation. I say that the Lord of love had just such as you are in His eye when He arranged the system of grace. Suppose a man of generous spirit were to resolve to forgive all those who were indebted to him; it is clear that this can only apply to those really in his debt. One person owes him a thousand pounds; another owes him fifty pounds; each one has but to have his bill receipted, and the liability is wiped out. But the most generous person cannot forgive the debts of those who do not owe





him anything. It is out of the power of Omnipotence to forgive where there is no sin. Pardon, therefore, cannot be for you who have no sin. Pardon must be for the guilty. Forgiveness must be for the sinful. It were absurd to talk of forgiving those who do not need forgiveness—pardoning those who have never offended.

Do you think that you must be lost because you are a sinner? This is the reason why you can be saved. Because you own yourself to be a sinner I would encourage you to believe that grace is ordained for such as you are. One of our hymn-writers even dared to say:

A sinner is a sacred thing;
The Holy Ghost hath made him so.

It is truly so, that Jesus seeks and saves that which is lost. He died and made a real atonement for real sinners. When men are not playing with words, or calling themselves “miserable sinners,” out of mere compliment, I feel overjoyed to meet with them. I would be glad to talk all night to bona fide sinners. The inn of mercy never closes its doors upon such, neither weekdays nor Sunday. Our Lord Jesus did not die for imaginary sins, but His heart’s blood was spilt to wash out deep crimson stains, which nothing else can remove.

He that is a black sinner—he is the kind of man that Jesus Christ came to make white. A gospel preacher on one occasion preached a sermon from, “Now also the axe is laid to the root of the trees,” and he delivered such a sermon that one of his hearers said to him, “One would have thought that you had been preaching to criminals. Your sermon ought to have been delivered in the county jail.” “Oh, no,” said the good man, “if I were preaching in the county jail, I should not preach from that text, there I should preach ‘This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptation, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.’” “Just so. The law is for the self-righteous, to humble their pride: the gospel is for the lost, to remove their despair.

If you are not lost, what do you want with a Saviour? Should the shepherd go after those who never went astray? Why should the woman sweep her house for the bits of money that were never out of her purse? No, the medicine is for the diseased; the quickening is for the dead; the pardon is for the guilty; liberation is for those who are bound: the opening of eyes is for those who are blind. How can the Saviour, and His death upon the cross, and the gospel of pardon, be accounted for, unless it be upon the supposition that men are guilty and worthy of condemnation? The sinner is the gospel’s reason for existence. You, my friend, to whom this word now comes, if you are undeserving, ill-deserving, hell-deserving, you are the sort of man for whom the gospel is ordained, and arranged, and proclaimed. God justifieth the ungodly.

I would like to make this very plain. I hope that I have done so already; but still, plain as it is, it is only the Lord that can make a man see it. It does at first seem most amazing to an awakened man that salvation should really be for him as a lost and guilty one. He thinks that it must be for him as a penitent man, forgetting that his penitence is a part of his salvation. “Oh,” says he, “but I must be this and that,”—all of which is true, for he shall be this and that as the result of salvation; but salvation comes to him before he has any of the results of salvation. It comes to him, in fact, while he deserves only this bare, beggarly, base, abominable description, “*ungodly*.” That is all he is when God’s gospel comes to justify him.

May I, therefore, urge upon any who have no good thing about them—who fear that they have not even a good feeling, or anything whatever that can recommend them to God—that they will firmly believe that our gracious God is able and willing to take them without anything to recommend them, and to forgive them

spontaneously, not because *they* are good, but because *He* is good. Does He not make His sun to shine on the evil as well as on the good? Does He not give fruitful seasons, and send the rain and the sunshine in their time upon the most ungodly nations? Ay, even Sodom had its sun, and Gomorrah had its dew. Oh friend, the great grace of God surpasses my conception and your conception, and I would have you think worthily of it! As high as the heavens are above the earth; so high are God's thoughts above our thoughts. He can abundantly pardon. Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners: forgiveness is for the guilty.

Do not attempt to touch yourself up and make yourself something other than you really are; but come as you are to Him who justifies the ungodly. A great artist some short time ago had painted a part of the corporation of the city in which he lived, and he wanted, for historic purposes, to include in his picture certain characters well known in the town. A crossing-sweeper, unkempt, ragged, filthy, was known to everybody, and there was a suitable place for him in the picture. The artist said to this ragged and rugged individual, "I will pay you well if you will come down to my studio and let me take your likeness." He came round in the morning, but he was soon sent about his business; for he had washed his face, and combed his hair, and donned a respectable suit of clothes. He was needed as a beggar, and was not invited in any other capacity. Even so, the gospel will receive you into its halls if you come as a sinner, not otherwise. Wait not for reformation, but come at once for salvation. God justifieth the *ungodly*, and that takes *you* up where you now are: it meets you in your worst estate.

Come in your *deshabille* [disorder]. I mean, come to your heavenly Father in all your sin and sinfulness. Come to Jesus just as you are, leprous, filthy, naked, neither fit to live nor fit to die. Come, you that are the very sweepings of creation; come, though you hardly dare to hope for anything but death. Come, though despair is brooding over you, pressing upon your bosom like a horrible nightmare. Come and ask the Lord to justify another ungodly one. Why should He not? Come for this great mercy of God is meant for such as you are. I put it in the language of the text, and I cannot put it more strongly: the Lord God Himself takes to Himself this gracious title, "Him that justifieth the ungodly." He makes just, and causes to be treated as just, those who by nature are ungodly. Is not that a wonderful word *for you*? Reader, do not delay till you have well considered this matter.

From All of Grace
by Charles Spurgeon

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Pearl,

I just wanted to thank you so much for responding to my letter & sending me the gospel tract [A print out of Spurgeon's, "God justifieth the ungodly"] message. I am saved! I was so confused before.

I thought God hated me and all I had to look forward to was hell. I hated my sin and could not understand how to make myself "right". I now see so perfectly clear that God wanted me to come just as I was, a wretched sinner.

God is so good. I still cannot fathom why He would do what He did for me. His love is amazing. Well, I had to write you and thank you from the bottom of my heart with everything within me, "Thank you". - Love, L.

Read the entire book online at www.spurgeon.org/sermons.3479.htm

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I am writing to tell you that I have accepted Jesus into my life through reading the Good & Evil book. I have enjoyed the warmth of His glory.

He not only fills my heart with joy but fights the battles I am not able to. He has become the support in my life that has not only let me see the errors of my ways, but has also brought me and my sister back in contact with each other.

I also want to say that I am impressed with what you have done with your ministry and the sacrifices you have made. All in all I want to thank you, for you are the reason for the Bible study group I have organized since accepting Jesus into my life. - Thank you for all you've done. D.P.

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Author: Laurence M. Vance, Ph.D. This is a detailed historical examination and critical biblical analysis of Calvinism. Extensively documented from Calvinistic authorities, this book presents the other side to the over 400-year-old debate of the doctrines of Calvinism. Mike Pearl states, "This is the best book exposing the heresies of Calvinism. If you are a Bible believer concerned about TRUTH, this is a 'must-read.'" Hard bound book.

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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.

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To Train Up A Child

My husband and I recently ordered *To Train up a Child*. He read it and then asked me to read it. Our oldest daughter is 5 ½; while I was reading she said; "Daddy is being so nice lately". It was great! I finished reading the book, now my husband and I are getting along better. Our discipline/training is consistent. Our children listen and are happy (and so are we)! - *Thank you, W. & M.*

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GOD HATES SINNERS

It's time you knew the truth.

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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.

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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 CDs **8330-45** **\$12.00**

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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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The Jews have taught it for 3,500 years. The church fathers believed it and wrote of it. It has been commonly believed by Bible believers down through the ages, but it is too radical for our present generation. They will ridicule you if you believe it.

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WHEN FORGIVENESS IS A SIN

The Bible does not teach that Christians are to forgive everyone. In some cases it would be a sin to forgive. See what the Bible says and free yourself from the bondage of modern psycho babble.

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Dear Mrs. Pearl,

A while back someone gave me a book on how to be a better wife, well I wasn't much "in the mood" to be a better wife so I just let it sit. I came across that book after a move & decided that I probably should give it a shot. Well, I read a couple of chapters & thought "I HATE THAT BOOK!!!" OK, so God was working on me...Then something would happen & I would read some more of it, and again I would growl & say " I HATE THAT BOOK"! Well, I got most of the way through it and a friend was going through a VERY hard time in her marriage. I kept telling her about this book I was reading and how it was challenging me on EVERYTHING that I had EVER learned about being a woman & wouldn't you know it...I wound up loaning her THAT BOOK before I was finished with it. (That was a God thing b/c I was growing quite attached to it at that point) (Go figure) I just wanted to thank you soooo much for allowing the Lord to use you to write the book *Created To Be His Help Meet*. Our Lord has used it to share quite a few things with me, for the sake of my family. I have been truly blessed by the book. - Thanks again!!! Your sister in Christ, C. S.

Our marriage was almost over. I was stressed, he was in and out of jobs; I was paying the bills and the more I took on his responsibilities the worse it got and the bossier I got. Everyone said that he was not saved. I kept making excuses for him.

I got your book... I read the scripture; I got in my place and prayed for my husband. I stopped paying all the bills and daily read *Created To Be His Help Meet*. God gave me the grace to grin and bear my husbands angry moments. I kept loving him and praying for him; my life was changed.

I have become my husband's "Help Meet". I noticed that he wanted to read his Bible more; I found him reading late into the night. One Sunday I was sick and stayed home from church, and he went by himself and received Christ as his savior!!!

Thank you for making God's word more clear to me. I look forward to getting *The Help Meet's Journey*. We almost lost love...We almost went bankrupt...I almost forgot my place...But with your book, the Word, and prayer, we are in LOVE!!! - Thank you, J

I have a master's degree in chemistry and I failed the "dumb cluck" test in Debbie's *Created* book.

I am working to make myself a better helpmeet to my husband. I misspent most of my youth preparing for a career instead of being a keeper at home. But thanks to your encouragement, I'm endeavoring to catch up. - C.P.



Dear Debi,

Thank you for your book *Created To Be His Help Meet*. IT HAS CHANGED MY MARRIAGE!!! I cried out to God for wisdom in my marriage and realized while reading your book that I AM TO BLAME FOR THE LACK OF CONTENTMENT!

How freeing to begin this new journey of obedience to the Lord!
- Thank you sincerely, Sarah

Dear Mrs. Pearl,

I just finished reading your book *Created To Be His Help Meet*.

Thank you, thank you, and thank you for teaching me about contentment, thankfulness and joy! I have heard teaching on having respect for your husband but I just didn't get it. I never realized what a bad attitude I had until I read your book. My husband has been trying to tell me about my negativity, but I didn't listen to him. I know now that my self-pity, depression, discontent, anxiety, and fears were "a condition of my soul" like you wrote in your book. I repented of my sin to God and He has given me cheerfulness, contentment, a thankful heart, laughter, smiles and JOY! I asked my husband to forgive me for everything I've said and done wrong. He has forgiven me and has noticed the change in me.

My husband is a really wonderful man and a wonderful daddy too. I will never complain about him again. He has put up with me for 4 years-I was so stupid! I wish I had learned this earlier. I am so sorry for the pain I have caused my husband. Now I am moving forward with a merry heart. Thank you, Mrs. Pearl. I wish I could hug you. You have helped me so much. I am crying tears of joy. I can't even imagine how much treasure is waiting for you in heaven! - Love, A.

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