

A young boy with light brown hair and blue eyes is shown from the chest up. He has a wide-eyed, open-mouthed expression of surprise or excitement. He is holding a small, dark-colored fish with its mouth open, as if he has just caught it. He is wearing a camouflage-patterned jacket with blue and white accents. A small patch on the jacket reads "BACKYARD SAFARI EVENT". The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting an outdoor setting.

NO GREATER

JOY!

MARCH-APRIL 2018

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



Greetings!
This is a busy season of ministry. Be sure to check out NGJ's blog on our website for all our camp meetings and shindigs. A family that plays together, prays together, and shares Jesus together stays solid, happy, and busy.
-Michael and Debi

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

"I WAS IN PRISON, AND YE CAME UNTO ME."
MATTHEW 25:36



BUY
ONE

AND WE'LL

GIVE
ONE



During the months of May and June, when you purchase a Good and Evil book in English we will send a Good and Evil to an incarcerated inmate in jail!

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Brian and Debbie Travis from Wentzville, MO
Married 35 years

THE NATURE OF MAN & Woman

By Beth Determan

We ladies are different from our men.

But a lot of times, especially with the feminist movement, we ladies want to be equal, or better than the guys. We can't just be the woman; we want to be up at the top... we don't want to be underneath our husbands. This issue is about men and women being different. Men

think differently, and they certainly behave differently. And for that matter they even smell different. God created a man, he created a woman, and he made us different; it's basic biology.

Men do everything with a testosterone drive, meaning, big



trucks or how much wood can they chop at once. Half of the time we don't understand why guys do what they do. Why they want the biggest, and the best, and the loudest, and the roughest of everything is because of that big T-drive. God created them to have dominion. Their testosterone makes them need to be in charge. And like Debi says in chapter 11 of ***Created to Be His Help Meet***, the big T is why they invite us along—so we can see how strong and wonderful they are and be impressed. But this is not how it works anymore, and our guys are floundering, trying to please us and find their way.

The feminist movement rubbed off on some of us. I know my mindset was messed up with it, and I know many of you have blurred the line where you want to prove that you can do anything a man can do, only better. I was raised the feminist way. I'm still the first to struggle with it. This was my main struggle in my marriage—years 10, 11, 12. I am telling you that God created us man and woman and if we want a good marriage, we need to let our men be different.

Most women trying to do anything a man can do are just looking

for attention. That was me. I was raised in a home with a mom who was an Army Ranger. That's tough, right? It is amazing that she could keep up with those men. This tough gal is my stepmom who raised me to be strong.

But back up a few years, before she came into my life... I was raised in a home with domestic abuse. I watched my birth mom being beaten. I watched her man control her, belittle her, keep her in fear; she behaved like a victim because she was. After a few years of seeing that, I moved in with my dad and his new wife. She was the opposite of my birth mom. This tough Army Ranger stepmom taught me that I did not have to be afraid of a man or ever

depend on one. After being abused and watching my birth mom being abused, all this sounded good. I never again wanted to go through the hell I had gone through. I didn't need a man. So you can understand that when I married I

didn't see my husband as my protector. I didn't view man—whom God created—to be my protector. I came into marriage with the attitude, "I ain't gonna take anything from anybody." I didn't trust my man. I was satisfied that I could handle life

**We need to
let our men
be different**



Josh and Jayne Hathaway,
married for 14 years. Photo by Melissa Bailey

with or without him. When I set out on my own marriage journey I was the boss. I was wearing the pants. I didn't understand or trust my husband's God-given authority.

We both got saved early in our marriage and began our "saved" marriage journey. Sometimes I think Christian ladies are more inclined to lack trust than non-believers. I am married to a kind, soft-spoken Steady Man. I thought, "He takes too long to make decisions and he's too passive. He doesn't pray with us and he's not leading us in this Bible study." I had all these things going through my head. I didn't plan on dishonoring him. If you had said "Do you wear the pants in your marriage?" I would have said, "No! Because I know my role; I know I'm his help meet." But actions speak louder than words.

Then I read *Created to Be His Help Meet*, and I knew I did not honor my man. I could clearly see my trust issues. I knew I had those fences up. I had to learn to truly trust

God with my life and with my marriage. I'm telling you ladies, when you're raised where men constantly hurt you, I know it's hard. I do. But my husband has never hurt me, and he doesn't deserve for me to put that baggage on him. And I had to (and continue to) make a choice to not place that baggage on him. I know a lot of us have had to go through counseling and different things, but the man you married is typically not the one who wounded you. **Don't project those trust issues onto him when he's not the abuser.**

Learning to trust my husband was the beginning. Letting him lead, hearing the words come out of my mouth, "I fully, 100% trust you with my family, with the decisions that need to be made, with however you feel like we should do," was giving him back his manhood.

It's hard to admit that we don't always make the best choices. And if you're married to a Visionary (God help you—and he will!) it's hard to trust some of his choices, because you question whether he can even tie his own shoes! I get it; I've seen those situations. If you're married to a Mr. Steady, like I am, you're worried that he may never decide, or that he's indifferent. It just gets you rattled on the inside. Or if you're married to that Mr. Command Man, you wonder if he's even thinking about you. Are you even on his radar? It's all about trust.

Learning to trust is not going to be easy. When I hear Christian



ladies tell me, “God isn’t going to give you anything you can’t handle,” I think, Honey, yes he will! Or at least you will think you have been given more than you can stand! There will be situations that are going to be hard.

**Make
sure you
need your
husband.
If you don’t,
some other
chick will.**

Situations that you don’t know how to handle, where you are crying your eyes out to Jesus, “How can I take one more day? How can I do this one more time?” But that deepens your relationship with Jesus.

Men are ruled by their mind, by logic. Obviously, we’re ruled by feelings, by sensibilities. “Oh, I feel...” God gave us a sensitive side for nurturing and caring for babies and kissing those boo-boos. For many of us, life circumstances have made us hard. But men are attracted to females who need them. Make sure that you need your husband, because I can tell you right now, if you don’t, some other chick will. And it will happen. It almost destroyed my marriage, because in that early stage when we had babies, I didn’t need my husband! I worked in a mechanic’s shop. I could

do it all. But guess what—he needed to be needed. There was this cute young thing he worked with who did need him. Anyway, thank you Jesus that we got ahold of ourselves and God got ahold of us. But I’m just telling you, it’s okay to be vulnerable and need your man. That’s the way God designed marriage. Some of us struggle with that more than others.

I think the biggest truth bomb is that women think their husband isn’t spiritual

I am married to a man who doesn’t even want me to change a light bulb. I am not kidding you. My man wants to take care of my every need. I am a princess in a castle in this house. Now, I am a Go-To Girl, and I do not need to wait three months for a light bulb to be changed. I’ve got a ladder and I can do that myself. But no! I’m convinced God has a sense of humor! My man wants to fix that leaky faucet that’s driving me bonkers. He wants to change those light bulbs for me and he wants me to wait. I’ve had these house projects going on for two years that I’m almost certain I could

do in my sleep. I’ve played it out in my mind; I know I can do this! But you know what? He says no. He doesn’t want me using his tools, and he doesn’t want me to do the work. He wants to do that for me. And so I wait. Because when he does do it, it’s going to be amazing, it’s going to be perfect, and I’m going to love it.

So let’s flip it. Some of you ladies, your man wants you to grab a chain saw and get right next to him cutting wood and slinging that hammer. If he’s gone and the toilet gets a leak he says, “Why didn’t you fix it? Can’t you replace that? Are your arms broken?” Look at it like this: he wants you capable because he is the Command Man, and he wants to know if something happens to him, that you can do this. It’s that same protector, that same guidance, but it is a different style. He wants to know that you’re protected and that you can work without him. If your husband wants you to learn it all and do it all, you can do that but still reverence him. You can still have that help-meet attitude. Don’t think, “I have to do everything because he wants me to,” but “He is letting me do this because he trusts me.” There’s that TRUST word again.

I think the biggest truth bomb of chapter 11 is that women think their husband isn’t spiritual. “He doesn’t pray with us, he doesn’t go to church with us, he’s not reading the Bible to the children, he’s not teaching me, he’s not pouring into me...” I have said every one of those things and they will take you down. Be an encouragement to your husband.

Don't make him feel guilty, because if you do, he most certainly won't ever do it. And that was what happened to me and my man in the beginning. I made him feel guilty for not doing "spiritual" things, so he didn't feel like he was capable. It backfired in my face. So now, when I see my husband sitting at the kitchen table doing the one-year Bible reading, my heart just leaps because I think, "That is a man of God." He may never tell me one thing he read or even tell the children, but he's hiding it in his heart. Stop nagging your man to be the spiritual leader of your home. I want you to really think about and embrace that.



I think back to my great-great-grandmother. I have a picture of her in the kitchen with her adorable apron on. And that's where she spent her days—cooking in the kitchen. She also worked in the cotton fields and then handed the money to my grandpa. When I think of Proverbs 31, I think of her. She just embraced her role like generations and generations before her. Wow, Satan has crept in and corrupted and lied to the women of today. And like Eve, we are deceived. Our marriages crumble

around us, we are full of hurt, bitterness, and shame, and we want to blame our man. Be careful whom you are listening to, as they might be like the snake in the garden. Be wary of who influences you. Be cautious who your friends are. It's not worth your marriage, and it's not worth your relationship with the Lord. Read his Word and get to know him by how he dealt with people down through the ages. It will sober you when you get your feelings hurt.

Men want to make us happy

Men want to make us happy because it is a mark of their manhood. A lot of times they will go against their good judgment just to shut us up. They desperately want to be the man of God we desire. They desperately want to be that man of the home. They have that ingrained in them. They want us to look at them in a good light. Tonight when he comes home look in his face and tell him, "I am so proud of you, how you take care of us and love us. I am proud to be your woman." It will build confidence in him. It is your role. Embrace your role as help meet. Trust God in putting you in that role. Trust your husband in his leadership. We, ladies, are learning to lean. ■



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From Mr. Visionary

Dear Mike,

My 82nd birthday arrived this past October and that day I received the issue of “NGJ.” As I read your transparent reply to a young wife, I could not help but relate, for I am a dreamer myself, having had many dreams which, in many cases, have cost lots of money, but my wife has helped me along the way, has forgiven me, and loves me.

It seems like I have been married to her for a lifetime, for without her many of my dreams would not have been realized. My 20-year stint in the military has given me a retirement income plus VA disability compensation; I am able to help the widow and the orphan, tithe at my church, and help other ministries as well along with having the fulfillment of one of my dreams, and that is, as a master gardener, having something blooming all year round on the 20-acre homestead my wife and I named Victory Gardens. I do so very much feel content in that the Lord has allowed many of my dreams to be fulfilled, even with what they cost, to prove his strength in my life and to show me he has been with me all along. I love the fact that the Holy Spirit has my back!

As I read your article, Brother, I was so encouraged that I am not the only dreamer on this planet, and I have come to realize that as I continue on my dream-journey with a good wife who supports me, well, God is good; he's a good, good Father!

Your brother in Christ,

Carl

BRAIN GROOVING

By Debi Pearl

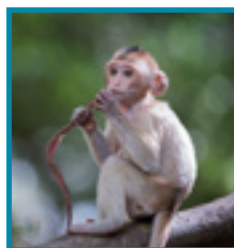
DID YOU KNOW?



Animal studies have shown that newborn mice must experience whisker sensation in the first few days of life to enable them to develop normal sensorimotor skills.



Cats must be allowed normal visual input during their first three months or their vision will be permanently impaired.



Monkeys need consistent social contact during their first six months or they will end up extremely emotionally disturbed.



The same critical periods appear to hold for human development (ZeroToThree.org).

From the very first moments of your child's life, his brain is being molded into who and what he will become. Thoughts and actions that are repeated over an extended period of time leave "grooves" in the brain that become the reservoir for all future thoughts and

actions. Repetitive sounds, stresses or pleasures, consistent experiences, and all other daily happenings create grooves in his brain that will stay with him for life.

I have potty trained our day-old babies by simply making a noise every time I felt wet heat in their

diaper. Those two things happening simultaneously over and over grooved their brain so that when they heard the noise, their body naturally responded. Now my grandchildren are being trained. By the time they walk, they take themselves to the potty. Cool beans, right?

In these early years your child is in a constant state of learning

Babies quickly learn to be comforted by their own mama's style of handling them. Some time ago, during a church meeting, I was babysitting a newborn and I could not comfort the screaming child. I rocked, sang, and cuddled the baby, but she continued to cry. Someone went into the meeting to get the mother, thinking the child must be hungry. As soon as the mother saw her baby being held and gently rocked she just laughed and said, "Give her to me." The mother began this hard rocking motion along with a high-pitched hum. The baby immediately stopped crying and began to contentedly suck her thumb. The newborn's brain had been grooved to a different kind of security. The mother handed the baby back to me and I mimicked the mother's style, which resulted in a happy little girl. If a tiny baby can appreciate that over my gentle grandma style, then grooving is important to comfort.

The first few years of a child's life should be a time spent grooving into them confidence, thankfulness, joyfulness, self-discipline, and an eagerness to learn. In these early years of life your child is in a constant state of learning. His physical, mental, and emotional states are forming deep grooves.

GOOD GROOVING

When my first child was born I had just finished reading a book about introducing your infant to fine music. The book showed how children are not born with the gift, but rather the people in the newborn's life introduce them to music. I bought some old records and had them softly playing for most of my new baby's first three months. Later I read how reading poetry to your toddlers would imprint the concept of rhyme into their brains. I really wanted to give my child all that I could, so I was faithful in this as well. Of course, my gratification was delayed because it was YEARS before I realized how successful my endeavors were. It REALLY worked.

I was reading another baby book when my next child was born. It taught how you could use dots to teach math concepts to infants. I faithfully made large cards with big dots on them. Several times a day I would hold up that day's card of dots. I would say to my 2-year-old, "This is eight dots. Eight." And my toddler would excitedly yell out, "Eight dots!" He never actually counted the dots.



I reviewed often, going back to one dot. When I reviewed, I intentionally hesitated before I called out the number so my baby boy would call it out before I could. The book warned me not to challenge him by saying, “How many dots?” I finished with 35 dots put on a card in a random style. He knew them all, but to me if there were more than 15 dots it was just a guessing game. I couldn’t identify the number. Amazing. That boy grew up to be a master at math. Not reading, not music, but really good at math.

Now when my third child came around, I was reading *How to Teach Your Baby to Read*. He had flash cards of words. Not easy words, but words with lots of letters. I taped words to everything in the house. The fact is, I read too much and I love experimenting. I have a habit of believing what I read, which is not always the best. But that is off the subject. You have to meet Nathan (the third child) to believe what I am telling

you is the truth. He is a master with words. He LOVES words. Ask anyone who knows him, and they will tell you he has a rich vocabulary far beyond anyone they know. I never actually taught him how to read. I only did a few school lessons with him in his whole life. Yet he can discuss most any subject with any educator and know more than they know, and he is capable of explaining it better. He does have major holes in his education. His handwriting is terrible. He can’t spell. But because he loves words, he loves reading, so he’s been able to learn about almost all subjects of higher learning. I GROOVED his brain deeply with the love of words.

When my fourth child was born, I had a tape recorder. I taped myself reading books so she could listen and “read” along with the tape. I was sure this was a great way to homeschool because she could listen over and over. But she had the hardest time learning to read. I now KNOW that



nothing takes the place of a real person sitting and reading along with the little one. Thankfully, she developed strong, confident leadership skills from caring for her little sister, and that made up for my lacking.

The fifth child caught me in the middle of studying herbs. I was passionate about it. I checked out and studied every herb book in every library in Memphis, Tennessee. My kids—from my 10-year-old down to the newborn—studied with me. We examined pictures of herbs and then went into the wild to find them. We bought herb seeds to grow and then harvest and dry. We cooked with herbs, healed with herbs, and puked when I misused them. My oldest child learned a lot about herbs, as did the other children, but it was the baby I carried on my hip who became a renowned herbalist. That young brain was smelling, touching, tasting, and understanding herbs. By the time she was 9 years old, she was bringing in a good amount of money selling her plants. When she was 13, she took over a tiny herb business that we had established a few years earlier for our children to make a little money and learn some business skills. Within a few years people all over the world wrote asking her questions about herbs, and she knew the answers. I am writing to you about brain grooving... been there and done that. It really works.

What have I learned from my experiences and what would I do differently now that I can see the results of my labor? Well, of course,



Diane Krasznay

Used with permission



Here is a photo that I just took. It is a broken spray bottle dumped on the floor. It is one of the things trashed because of my son's temper tantrum this morning. He is 10. He is a wonderful kid and a bright student. He is loving and caring... at least, he was until I took his phone away this morning; then he became something I would have never believed—a raging, bitter child.

It wasn't a big deal. He and his friend were going on an outing together and I knew his friend would be bored if my son was glued to his phone for the long car ride, so I told my son that his phone stayed at home. He went ballistic pitching an angry fit of begging, demanding, crying, falling on the floor and begging some more. The whole scene was hard to fathom.

My daughter is in high school and she has wasted a lot of time on social media, and let's admit it, so have I. It is addictive. But the phone is often helpful, convenient, and sometimes totally necessary, like when there was the school shooting, parents could text their children and know they were okay. I know all this.

But from what I saw today, I am convinced that my son is a real addict. It is a much bigger problem than I ever

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continued from page 15

would have guessed, and it is my fault. I gave him the phone because he has a long bus ride from school and I wanted to stay in touch with him. I allowed him to play games after this and that, and I rewarded him time with the phone for jobs well done. I trusted him to stick to the guidelines I set up, but instead it has grown into a monster. I knew this but after the violence I saw today, I can see it is something far worse.

After I first posted this yesterday, several people messaged me that my son just needed his butt whipped and he would give it up. I disagree. It certainly would not make a drug addict stop drugs. Read what is being written to warn parents: <http://www.techaddiction.ca/children-addicted-to-video-games.html>. This book compares gambling addiction and drug addiction with tech addictions. I think tech addiction is worse. In a real way, it destroys a child's brain. The tech addict dies slowly inside. Their personality changes, their mood changes, their brain changes, and their connection with family, friends, and the outside world all change.

I know of one lady whose 14-year-old son is sitting in jail for attacking his parents after they took his phone. Another sad mama messaged me that her kind, obedient, smart son hanged himself right after they took his phone. One mom wrote that when she took her daughter's phone, her daughter attacked her with extreme violence so they had to call the police, but the police refused to get involved. Lots of teachers wrote that they would be scared for their life if they asked the kids to put away their phones while at school. And the problem is growing. Wow, how did it get this bad, this fast?

We have got to make a change. It starts at home. I am making the change. Hope this helps.

ALL my children would have the opportunity of hearing classical music as they lay in their cribs as newborns. And every one of them would have had dots and words. They all would have had their senses stirred by herbs. But you only get one shot at being a mom and I have had mine.

What has impressed me more than words or dots or even herbs is the fact that my babies' brains were being grooved with my moods, my actions toward others, my attitude toward their daddy, and all the things that made up my days. I was molding their brains to become strong or weak, pitiful or resourceful, thankful or needy, overbearing or long-suffering. I am my children's mother. I have learned that everything I did grooved their brains. I am thankful we did not have electronics to put into their hands when we had something more important to do.

COMMON-SENSE BRAIN GROOVING

I call this article "Brain Grooving" because it is written to teach parents how to imprint basic good habits into their children's brains. It requires hard work and much repetition for a child to learn to play the piano, but there comes a day when his brain is so deeply imprinted that he plays without thought, just loving the flow of the music. Likewise, children whose brains are rightly imprinted in duty, responsibility, and empathy will without effort make wholesome spouses, good neighbors,



wise parents, and productive citizens.

Lest we forget the wisdom that worked in times past, we must review common-sense, biblical principles on how to raise emotionally balanced, hard-working children.

FOOD FOR GROOVING

During the toddler years, the number of nerve connections in the brain increases to 1,000 trillion, twice the number adults have, according to Indiana University's Riley Hospital for Children. These early years are when the child's brain is in rapid development, so, clearly, proper nourishment is crucial. Children can suffer cognitive problems that include language difficulties, lower IQ, and poorer school performance if their bodies are not being fed the nutrients needed for development. Myelin is an insulating material around the nerves in the brain. In malnourished toddlers there is a shortage of myelin because fewer cells that make it are produced. This can result in smaller brains, ac-

cording to *Zero to Three*, which is a program of the National Center for Infants, Toddlers, and Families. Good nutrition is required for these nerves and cells in the brain to form properly in 1- to 2-year-olds. If you want your children to grow up with clear, clean minds, then you need to remember YOU are the one who decides what they eat. As a parent, when you choose healthy food for your children, you are feeding their brains and building habits of healthy eating that will serve them well all their life. Good eating habits are grooved into the brain early.

Millions of children are living without wisdom because their parents have not taught the habit of delayed gratification

Over the last almost 50 years of counseling, we have learned that when the body is not nourished, it can disrupt a person's mental, emotional, and even spiritual well-being. We have seen men who are broken with depression or anger totally change when methylated B-vitamins are added to their diets. You can't run a car on dirty water and hope to get far down the road. God designed our bodies to function on good, healthy food. It is even more important for a developing child.

Parents often write to us saying they can't get their children to eat anything healthy. They write, "How can we get our children to eat what we give them?" A parent needs to be THE parent and take responsibility. If you knew for a certainty that your child would be brain damaged or die of cancer when they reached six years old based on what they are eating now, could you take charge and train them to eat differently? Of course you could, and you would. As parents we simply need to kindly, lovingly, and surely take charge. Of all child-training issues, this should be the easiest in which to simply do the right thing.

The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame. Proverbs 29:15

Basic biblical principles will not get you to heaven, but they do make it easier to honor God in how you live

I do not write this next sentence lightly: This one area of grooving the brain—that of good eating habits—will translate into self-discipline and self-denial in many areas of living. A child who has deeply grooved self-discipline in eating habits will be stronger both physically and emotionally. In time this will spill over into the growing child's spiritual life. Many new believers in Jesus struggle



Photo by Mandy Sellman

with sickness or sin that has had a grip on their life since childhood. They spent their youth indulging in over-eating, smoking, unthankfulness, laziness, or self-pity. If, as a child, they had been raised according to the principles of God's Word, these issues would never have been part of their lives. Basic biblical principles will not get you to heaven, but they do make it easier to honor God in how you live.

GROOVING DELAYED GRATIFICATION

Children also need a daily dose of learning to wait their turn. They need to learn to wait until the meal is set on the table to eat. This habit teaches self-discipline and makes deep, lasting, positive grooves in the brain that will create a will to wait in much more critical areas of life as they reach their teen years. A child who eats what he wants when he

wants will have sex when he wants or smoke pot when it pleases him. That is the way his brain is wired from his childhood choices. Millions of children are living without wisdom because their parents have not taught this simple habit of delayed gratification and selective gratification—otherwise known as self-control—allowing reason to choose the path rather than passion. Without this simple training, a self-indulged child will grow into an undisciplined adult who will either give in to the flesh or constantly struggle to gain control of over-eating, sexual indulgence, drugs, laziness, and/or depression. These poor folks look at their self-disciplined friends who don't appear to have a craving for sugary

food and wish they didn't have such an overwhelming lust for what is bad for them. As adults who never developed habits of self-restraint, the battle for health is relentless, daunting, and often defeating. Training a child is the kind thing to do.

GROOVING EMOTIONAL STABILITY

When a child is raised from childhood to delay gratification, it will be imprinted into his brain as a positive feeling when he overcomes an immediate lust. The practice of self-denial in the face of unwholesome choices leaves one with a high sense of self-worth and a deep gratification in the spirit, whereas undisciplined self-indulgence creates self-hatred and

Rebecca Beris reported on a study done in 2013 and published in the journal *Brain, Structure and Function* (<https://www.lifehack.org/377243/science-says-silence-much-more-important-our-brains-than-thought>). The following is quoted from her article.

The study used differed types of noise and silence and monitored the effect the sound and silence had on the brains of the mice. She writes, "The silence was intended to be the control in the study, but what they found was surprising. The scientists discovered that when the mice were exposed to two hours of silence per day, they developed new cells in the hippocampus. The hippocampus is a region of the brain associated with memory, emotion and learning.

The report reads, "We saw that silence is really helping the new generated cells to differentiate into neurons and integrate into the system."

In this sense silence can quite literally grow your brain.

When the brain rests it is able to integrate internal and external information into "a conscious workspace," said Moran and colleagues.

The default mode helps you think about profound things in an imaginative way.

As Herman Melville once wrote, "All profound things and emotions of things are preceded and attended by silence."

It is known that silence relieves stress and tension.

results in self-destructive actions.

Generally, depression comes from self-loathing, which often results from not having the strength of character to say no to something they wish they could resist. Individuals whose brains are grooved deeply in self-discipline will not have the same struggles as do others, because the reward centers in their brains are not located in the grooves of slavery but in the high self-respect of doing what ought to be done for the good that it produces. Children will become what they are going to be on your watch, parent. The little things today are microcosms of big things tomorrow. Win a little battle at five and they will win the big battles at fifteen.

BAD BRAIN GROOVING ***RAGE***

When you allow children to be unduly indulged over a period of time, they come to think that it is their right. When it is taken away, they will respond with rage.

**Rage is only possible
when one believes
that he has been
deprived of his due**

We live in a society where meltdowns are an acceptable part of life. In former generations, even the worst parents did not produce mass shooters. The most recent bombing spree

was committed by a homeschooler from a Christian, church-going family. It is quite obvious that the majority of children today are being imprinted with something destructive rather than creative. People live in an agitated state, trying to force others to do things their way or be the object of their rage.

You can see this in its developmental stage every day in the supermarket. A few years ago, we were all shocked to see an out-of-control 2-year-old screaming for sugar-coated cereal, but things have changed so much that today we don't even raise an eyebrow when we see a 7-year-old on the floor, thrashing and screaming. It is sickening to see a child that old without a shred of dignity or self-control—an inseparable pair. We are raising a generation without dignity, honor, or righteousness. They have no shame. Reclaiming the conscience is key for prison inmates to regain their integrity. That is a scary thought. Are we raising a generation of what will become a lawless people? A child who is trained to VALUE delayed gratification will be embarrassed when he witnesses another child acting with such a lack of propriety. Rage and acting-out to get one's way are learned habits that develop early but groove a child's brain deeply.

Rage is a word we once used only for the emotionally or mentally unstable, and rightly so. Rage is only possible when one believes that he has been deprived of his due. Today's teens are living in a state of extreme



rage and are playing out this rage in gaming, bullying, and worse. Among adults, road rage is now common.

Rage is crippling our children, our families, and our nation. Our children are gradually becoming less equipped to deal with even minor stressors, which eventually become

huge obstacles to their success in life. Expect it to get much worse in society as a whole. It should be our goal to train up our children in the way they should go so that when others are raging, they are serving.

Take stock of yourself and the way you relate to your children. Today's society, today's "rules," and today's expectations all make you believe you must give your children what they demand. Don't fall into this mindset.

GOOD TRAINING IS GROOVY

When we speak of training we are NOT talking about spanking. Training is just that, training. Our daughter trains her children in the art of fine dining. When they go out to eat at a restaurant, she helps them read and understand the menu, encourages them to ask the waitress questions

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about the meal they are considering, and allows them to be the one who pays for the family. Lastly, but most importantly, she makes sure they understand the value of the person who is serving them. She is training them in social behaviors. You get what you train for.

Training takes away the fear of ordinary situations; it builds confidence that comes with knowing how to perform any number of tasks. Everyday skills are becoming a lost art. Changing a tire was something all 10-year-old boys could do just a few years back, but now most boys would be in the car pitching a fit because they wanted a candy bar or they wanted to play games on mom's phone. All this while mom called for someone to come fix the flat.

All children were once trained to cook, especially the girls. The boys did a lot of their culinary training over the campfire. Deep grooves in

the brain on how food should be cooked, served, and how it tastes burnt to a crisp were all part of growing up. Mamas just took for granted that every meal would be prepared with a young child helping. That was not only training in the culinary arts, it was training to serve with a smile. Now, mamas are too busy to prepare a meal and too short on patience to take the time and trouble to allow the child to be part of the preparation. This lack of training will make the next generation weak and incompetent. When a child spends every day in the kitchen, the day comes when she can step in without a thought and do everything Mama can do and more. Her brain has been grooved deeply in what herbs taste best with what type of meats and how to make a delicious loaf of bread.

What do your children do most of the day? What grooves are being

formed in their developing brains? Schoolbooks impart information but are not going to train children in practical living or social responsibilities. It takes personal experiences to leave a mark on the brain. Do you want your children to clean up after themselves? Then start early training them until it becomes a habit. Do you want your children to love to read? Then read with them until they can't wait for you to finish the book and are launched into a life of literary investigation. To make deep grooves that are permanent, the eyes need to see, the hands need to do, and the soul needs to take pleasure in the knowledge. And most of all, the brain needs constant repetition. What grooved your child's brain today? Yesterday?

For generations small children have spent their days digging the earth and building dams, bridges, waterways, and roads. Little girls have set up under trees and pretended to serve their brothers food. They have gained balance learning to stand on their heads or ride bikes. They have taken care of animals and learned to train them. They have had long, lazy, hot days when their minds relaxed and repaired themselves. It takes a mountain of time doing these things for it to become a part of their soul.

Today's children are connected to technology where sights and sounds are dulling their brains and destroying their nervous systems by overstimulation. Scientists are proving this dulling of the brain and are appalled at what the future might

You can't entertain your children into emotional stability.

be. The brain is being gouged rather than grooved. It is easy to hand the bored and demanding boy your phone to keep him entertained and out of your way, but there will come a day when you will pay for your easy way out. You can't entertain your children into emotional stability. You alone are your child's hope. It is the hours you spend every day showing them how to draw a picture, write a story, mix up cornbread batter, sew a dress, hike through the woods, fish, hunt, mend, garden, care for the weak, bless your neighbors, and all the other things in life that make us a balanced, healthy society. You are the ground in which your seed grows. How much time does your child have your undivided attention, showing them how to be the person you want them to be: kind, thoughtful, helpful, respectful, self-disciplined, and hard working?



GROOVY IDEAS

Be decisive. Be the parent. Stick to your word.

- 1. Purge your home of junk food and teach your children to cook and eat healthy food.**
- 2. Organize your home routine. Bedtimes, eating times, and work times should be clearly defined.**

3. **Give your children chores.** Don't patronize them with dumb chores or silly compliments. Treat them with respect and expect them to perform properly.
4. **Spend time talking with your children and listening to them talk.** Talking is done best when you are doing chores together.
5. **Have fun. Jump out and scare each other.** Grab one child and dance around the room. Happy, balanced children come from happy mamas and daddies. You can't yell and gripe and expect them to be joyful.
6. **Spend time as a family doing small jobs, playing board games, or being creative.**
7. **Have some quiet downtimes when everyone just hangs over the couch and thinks about what they might like to do or where they might like to go visit.** Don't allow technology to consume their minds by having it readily available to fill up any gaps of time. Do your own research and see what electronic emissions are doing to their brains. Read how the blaring sights and sounds are dulling their intellect.

Child training is the most consuming joy in the universe. They should be with you when you take a walk, drive into town, visit a client, plant a garden, cook, clean out the car, and all the chores and events of life—except taking a bath and making love.

Children need to see that THEY are not the end goal

Children are learning every moment. Every second is forming the brain. Every experience is a potential habit and reservoir for future actions. Someone or something is teaching them all the time. Their brains are being grooved and YOU need to take charge of the process. You are your child's hope in today's failing culture.

THE VISION

Another word to Christian families who would love to see their children serving God...

Families who are successful in raising their children to do amazing things when they have a vision.

All children need to see that THEY are not the end goal. The goal needs to be much bigger than themselves. The family that wants children who will minister must be training their children to minister. Every child must see that their life matters to others outside their "pond." The family needs to be handing out tracts, feeding a needy family, helping an old lady with her yard, going on mission trips as a family, mailing gospel books to prisoners, or any other service that a child would see as worthy. Give your child an eternal vision. It is an excellent investment and will cover a lot of other mistakes that most parents make. ■



MICHAEL PEARL SAYS:

IF I WERE THE DEVIL, I would be proud of six things that leave lethal grooves in the brains of children:

- The presence of digital media in the homes of Christians—televisions, videos, Netflix, Amazon, iPads, computers, video games, and especially cell phones. For the first time in the history of the world, Satan has mainline, 24-hour-a-day, intravenous access to the hearts of children—direct from the Sodomites and atheists into the brains and hearts of children. It has never been so easy. The devil could retire for foolish parents are cooperating with the dark side, doing the devil's work for him.
- If I were the devil I would be proud of the educational system. His motto is Proverbs 666: "Train up a child in the way he should NOT go, and when he is old he will never depart from it."
- If I were the devil I would be proud of the church in the Western world. It attempts to be an alternative to pop entertainment and psychological therapy, with a combination of spiritual masturbation and self-love.
- If I were the devil I would be proud of the many bibles that contradict each other and leave the impression that only a Greek scholar can know the original intent.
- If I were the devil I would be proud of the modern family order where children are not required to share responsibility for the family prosperity. "By much

slothfulness the building decayeth; and through idleness of the hands the house droppeth through" (Ecclesiastes 10:18).

- Lastly, if I were the devil I would be especially proud of pornography and depictions of violence in the media. There was a time when only sailors in faraway ports could see even a fraction of what is now available to children online. Souls are destroyed by the time parents discover their children can access hell right from the privacy of their Christian home.

Yes, if I were the devil the only thing that would concern me now would be those families that have broken away from public education, the modern church, and the culture that surrounds them. I would dedicate all my energies to that small group of holdouts. How long will it be before they leave a gap in their defenses and the devil slides in like a chilly draft through a crack in the weather stripping?

But I am not the devil; I want to be his worst nightmare, so I am here to sound the alarm and bolster the defenses in these last days. There is a remnant, and you who are reading this are probably among the overcomers.

"Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." (Ephesians 6:10–11)

-Michael Pearl



Debi and Mike

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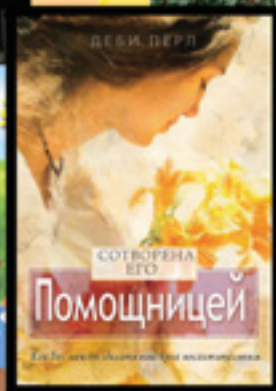
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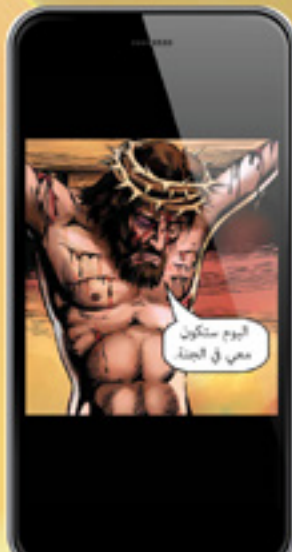


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when I tried to do something about my sinfulness.

THERE WAS A TIME

when I tried to get Christ to do something about my sinfulness.

THE TIME CAME

when I found out He already did something about my sinfulness! -Moses Schrock (Read Moses' article from the September/October 2017 magazine here: nogreaterjoy.org/author/moses-schrock/)

...when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right on of the Majesty on high. Hebrews 1:3b.

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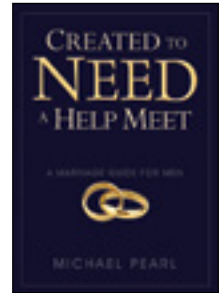
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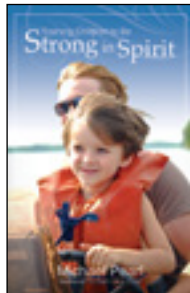
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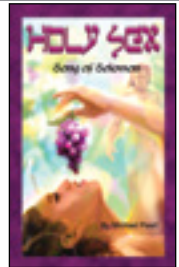


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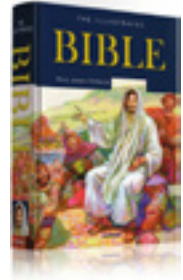
Historically, Christians have been divided on the issue of divorce and remarriage. Many institutions and theologies are on the side that it is adultery to remarry while one's former spouse is still alive. You do not have to pick a side to the exclusion of the other. There is harmony. By Michael Pearl. 96 pages.



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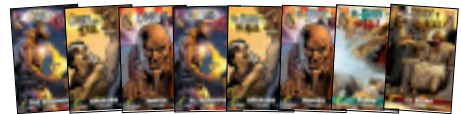
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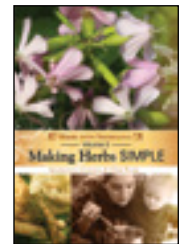
Join Shoshanna and friends as they teach you how to identify and use herbs growing in your own backyard! Make poultices, tinctures, herbal hair treatments, and much more. Includes a companion guidebook. 78 min.



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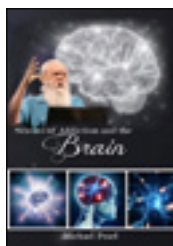
Michael encourages parents to train their children to be tomorrow's movers and shakers. Teach them to become leaders, entrepreneurs, statesmen—framers of tomorrow. 50 min.



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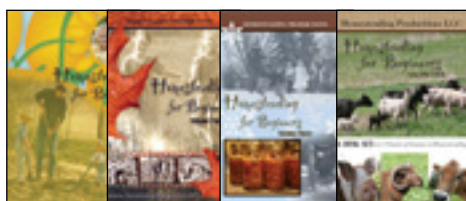
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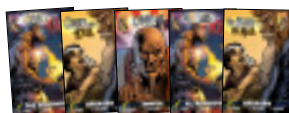
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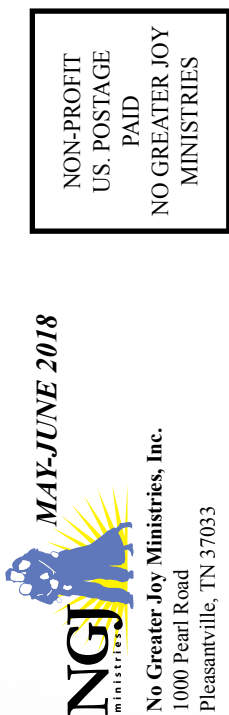
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