

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



NO GREATER JOY

MAY-JUNE 2019





The Trout Are In!

Our youngest grandson Lincoln is extremely tunnel-visioned. Fishing is his jam! Penelope wanted to get in on the fun too!



Mike & Debi's SCHEDULE

Lord willing, we will be speaking at two shindigs in September 2019!

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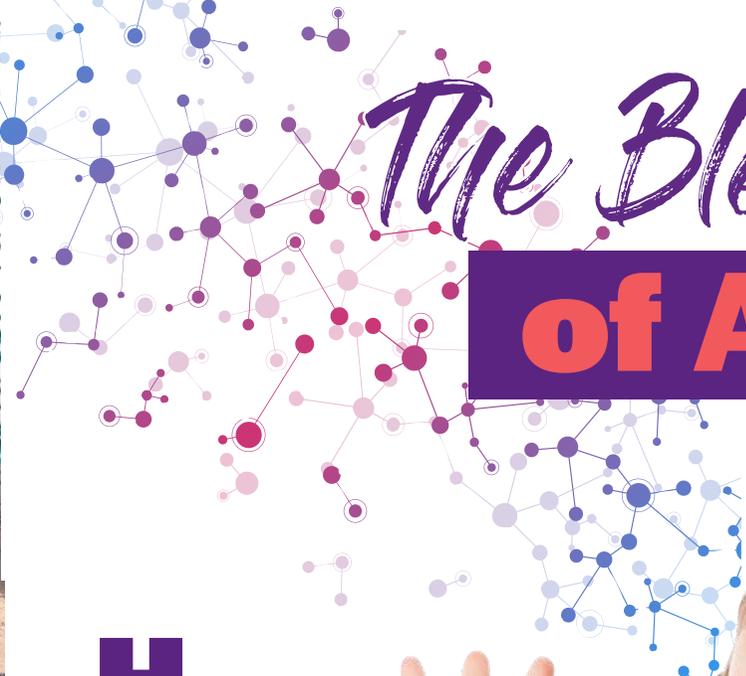
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All Scripture taken from the Authorized Version (King James) Holy Bible.

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The Blessing

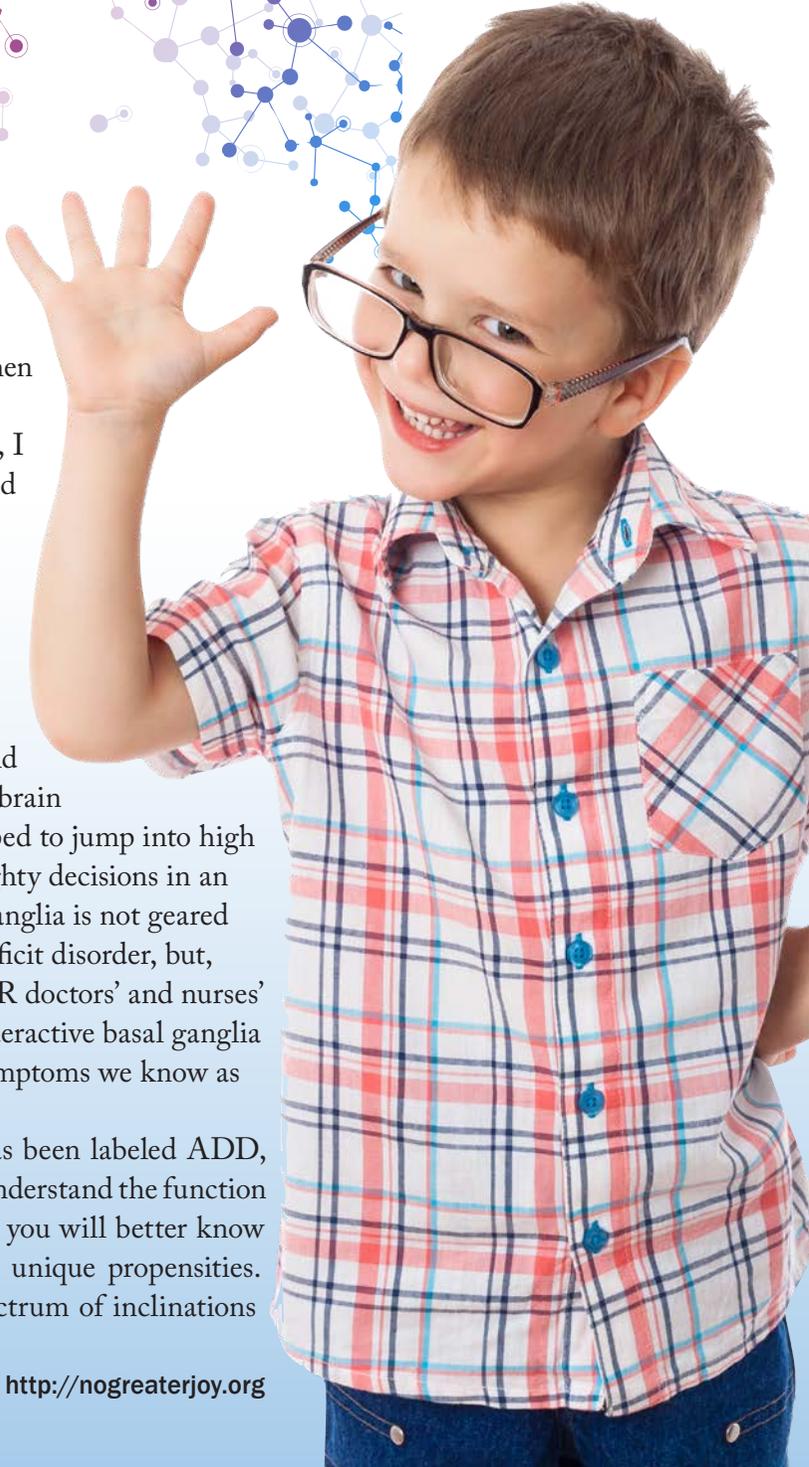
of ADD

By Debi Pearl

HAVE YOU

ever been in the emergency room after an accident when several people were bleeding out? If not, I can tell you firsthand it is a buzz of activity equal to nothing except maybe a disturbed beehive. If I had to work in the ER for just one hour, I think I would hyperventilate. My brain is simply not equipped to jump into high gear and make weighty decisions in an instant. My basal ganglia is not geared toward attention deficit disorder, but, thankfully, many ER doctors' and nurses' are. Oddly, it is underactive basal ganglia that produce the symptoms we know as ADD.

If your child has been labeled ADD, when you come to understand the function of the basal ganglia you will better know how to direct their unique propensities. There is a wide spectrum of inclinations



in human behavior. No two of us are alike. Learning how the brain works and how our thoughts and actions actually change the very structure of the brain will give you a whole new insight into how to best relate to and then train your children so they can be what they were created to be.

The basal ganglia acts as a sort of switchboard of neuronal communication, directing the flow of information to ensure it reaches the appropriate region of the brain. It is the part of the brain that is involved in integrating feelings and moods. All the areas of the brain, including the basal ganglia, function by responding to neurotransmitters, the chemicals and hormones that are released by our thoughts and actions. Knowing that we control their release by what we think and do is key to training your child to excel rather than being known as the lazy kid.

Our brain requires these chemicals and hormones to function properly. The chemicals differ in their effects: one kind of chemical is released when we think negative thoughts; a different chemical is released when

Our thoughts and actions actually change the very structure of the brain.

we accomplish something, and another when we are thankful. How we think, act, and respond in life determines which chemicals we release, and those chemicals flow over the different areas of our brain, actually building and shaping our brain into the person we become. But where



there is opportunity for good, there is also opportunity for bad. The negative neurotransmitters can actually damage and shrink the brain. This is big news! An ADD child who is trained to exercise self-control, self-motivation, and willpower will be a highly effective individual because his brain will produce neurotransmitters that create a biologically better brain.

When the basal ganglia is underactive, as seen in people who have ADD, it often takes a stressful situation to move them into action, thus the ER workers' exceptional performance. My oldest daughter Rebekah has always been thankful, cheerful, helpful, as well as the most laid-back, slow-moving person around. She told me once that she never really wakes up until she is standing in front of an audience of over a thousand people, and then her mind is crystal clear, focused, and thrilled with the message she is communicating. When I stand in front of an audience of a thousand, I can't even remember my name. Obviously, my basal ganglia is functioning exactly opposite to hers.

When one's basal ganglia is underactive, he may lack motivation and energy, but the brain is adaptable and thus can be molded by neurotransmitters. Even public schools are stepping up, using will-training to help children "think" in such a way as to release positive neurotransmitters. Many schools are now training children in what they call executive skills to help them master their lack of motivation. There is a whole science built around these executive skills: plan, organize, set goals, solve problems, regulate emotions, and monitor be-

Learning to regulate feelings and reaction is critical to happiness and success.

havior. Educators are training these children to use self-control to master their own emotions and shape their brain. The results have been astonishing. It took years of scientific study to figure that one out! We could have saved them a lot of time by pointing

Educators are training children to use self-control to master their own emotions and shape their brain.

them to God's Child Training 101 as taught in the Bible.

I encourage you to see your child's inclination with a label on it as his gift from above. He just needs the right opportunities to develop. Find what the underactive-basal-ganglia kids need to wake them up to be highly motivated to excel (hint: it's not video games).

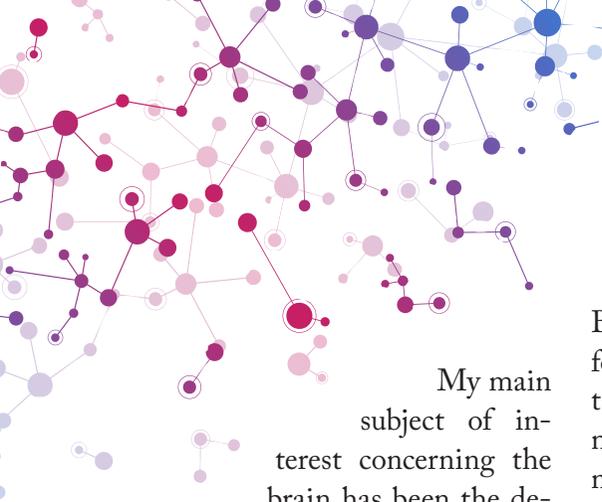
MY BRAIN QUEST

Over the last year, 5 or 6 hours a day, 5 days a week, I have studied the brain. Every day I stand in awe at God's incredible handiwork. The divine hand of creation is so obvious that most scientists have been forced to a conclusion they hint at but are unwilling to state forthrightly—that the brain is the product of a mastermind. We call him Master.

A PRACTICAL WILL-TRAINING EXAMPLE

A good friend of mine once asked me why I was making my 2-year-old finish her last green bean, and I replied, "So she will not smoke pot when she grows up." He looked at me dumbfounded and asked, "What could green beans and marijuana have to do with each other?" The answer is, of course, quite obvious.

When you learn to train and discipline the flesh at two years old, it doesn't seem so outrageous for a young man or woman not to walk in the flesh at twenty. Now, that is the obvious stuff, because training our children to control the flesh is a very important part of discharging our responsibility as fathers. -Nathan Pearl



NEUROPLASTICITY simply means the brain changes itself.

My main subject of interest concerning the brain has been the developing field of neuroplasticity. It is a big word that simply means the brain changes itself. Before neuroplasticity was known there was little hope for those with brain damage, disorders, or diseases. Now, healing is not only possible but likely.

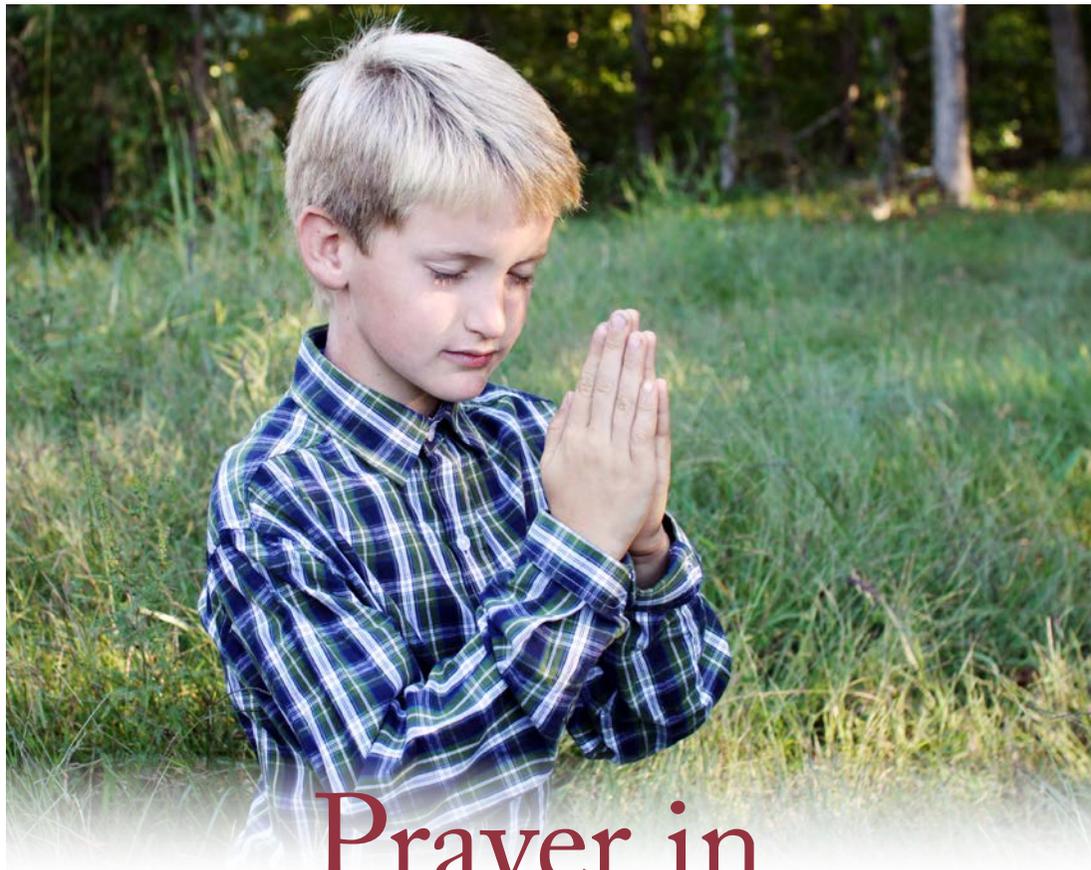
Here is a quickie on how neuroplasticity works. The brain is laid out like a map: the part that makes the thumb move is next to the nerve that makes the index finger move, which is next to the middle finger, etc. Doctors can stick a sharp object on the pinkie nerve in the brain and the pinkie will jump. The brain map is a long-established medical fact. In 1966, through an odd (it appears to be supernatural to me) set of circumstances, Dr. Paul Bach-y-Rita discovered when the area of the brain that controls the pinkie is damaged the brain can be trained to use a totally different area of the brain to take over control of the pinkie. This is true of most any brain damage. When a person has a stroke and is paralyzed he can be trained to use another area of his brain to perform the same functions. The medical society mocked and rejected all of Dr.

Bach-y-Rita's research papers, so he found a man who had no eyes and taught that man how to "see" with a new area of his brain. It rocked the medical world. Now, using neuroplasticity, children who have trouble speaking—or any brain-related disorder—can be trained to use a different part of the brain and recover. You as the mother can easily learn how to do this for your child. Neuroplasticity spells HOPE for millions all over the world.

There are amazing strides happening in the areas of music, math, reading, and even gymnastics. Neuroplasticity has demonstrated how music increases the brain's ability to learn other things like math and science more readily. Several countries have made music mandatory throughout their schools and are now outperforming other countries in math and science.

I have written a new book geared toward moms on this subject of applied neuroplasticity. It is full of stories and examples of how to train your children to excel in every academic field as well as have high emotional intelligence. The book is in the final stages of editing, so it should be available mid-summer.

Resource: *Change Your Brain, Change Your Life* by Daniel G. Amen, MD



Prayer in Jesus' Name

By Michael Pearl

1 John 5:14 says: "And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us:"

Question: Does this mean when we pray we need to add, "Thy will be done" or else God won't respond to our prayers?

Michael Answers

When Jesus himself prayed in the garden of Gethsemane, he did indeed say, "Not my will, but thine, be done." He did this because it was in accordance with what he was asking: that the cup of judgment would pass from him, a natural human desire but not the will

of the Father. He did not close his prayer with "If it be your will." Now, the question presented is would God fail to hear you if you didn't tack on the right phrase at the end?

God is a whole lot broader minded than we are, and he has a fatherly

heart toward us. In other words, God is not into formulas. He's not going to shut his ears if you don't have knowledge of the right thing to say at the end of your prayer. If you fail to say, "in Jesus' name," God is not going to retort, "No way! I'm not going to listen to that prayer." And if you don't add to your prayer, "according to your will," God is not going to say, "I'm not listening to that prayer."

God is not into formulas.



In fact, the Bible says, "*Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered*" (Romans 8:26). Read verse 27 with

I wouldn't worry about tacking a particular phrase onto the end of your prayer to make it acceptable to God.

it. That means that all you need to do is groan in God's direction with a heart that is needy, not even knowing what your need is, and God answers that prayer. The Holy Spirit takes that prayer and, like a diplomat, edits it and presents it to the Father in proper form.

Here is an example of this principle. I have a secretary who helps me answer letters. If I'm answering a letter, I will dictate to her what I want to say. If it's a particularly unpleasant situation, I might say, "Tell them to take that and stuff it," or "I don't give a flip about that."

When she writes to the person, she will say something like, "Mr. Pearl says that, at the present time, he is not interested in continuing this dialogue."

I'll sign that letter, but that's not exactly the way my original comment was stated. What she is doing is making my letter diplomatic and saving face for me, perhaps even making it legal. Her job is to take my letters and make them presentable.

The Holy Spirit does the same thing for us. When we pray, the Holy Spirit takes what we say, dresses it up, corrects the grammar, modifies the approach, takes what is in our heart,



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puts it into a package, and delivers it to the Father, and it's a beautiful prayer.

So I wouldn't worry about tacking a particular phrase onto the end of your prayer to make it acceptable to God.

As far as our attitude is concerned, how do we think about our prayers? Do we think of prayer as tapping into an unlimited resource, that anything we ask God gives us? That never has happened and never will happen.

He won't answer the unprayed prayer.

The Apostle Paul was an exemplary man of answered prayer with a record of doing the will of God. When Paul wanted to go to a particular place to preach, God gave him a vision calling him to Macedonia. He joyfully obeyed and saw great fruit. Paul was the one who was preaching when a kid fell out the window and died. Paul went down and raised

him from the dead. Paul is the one who was stoned to death, and after they threw his body outside the city he came to life. I would have found someplace else to preach, but Paul went right back into the city. Paul is the one who, when bitten by a deadly snake, just brushed it off in the fire and continued with his sermon. Paul is the one who, when it was prophesied that he would be imprisoned if he went to Jerusalem, responded by going to Jerusalem.

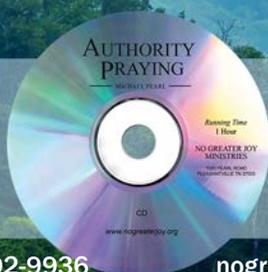
Yet this is the same Apostle Paul who, when he prayed, "God, I've got this infirmity of the flesh. Please take it away," received no answer. A few months later he got in a really distressed state of prayer and probably fasting, and again he said, "God, please take this away in Jesus' name." God did not answer his prayer. Then a third time he prayed the same prayer: "God, please take away this infirmity of flesh. Do you know how much I could serve you if I didn't have this? Do you know how much pain this

Prayer

is not first a matter of fervency, or frequency
or the manner in which we do it;

prayer is first a matter of authority.

-Michael Pearl



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causes me, how much suffering, how much public embarrassment? God, if you just deliver me from this, I'll . . ." No answer. God didn't answer him. Did he not pray the right prayer?

God says if we ask any thing according to his will, he hears us (1 John 5:14). Prayer has to begin with God and his will. God then works in our heart and spirit and stirs us to pray. When we pray according to his will, then he hears us. Now, if we don't pray according to his will, he won't hear us. And if we just fail to pray for something that is his will, then he won't answer the un-prayed prayer.

Prayer has to begin with God and his will.

I heard a story of a man who went to heaven and said, "God, how come you didn't bless me more and make provision for my needs?"

So an angel took him to a huge warehouse. There were numerous boxes sealed up with different names on them. The man asked, "What are these?" The angel said, "Answers to prayers you never prayed." A lot of things God would do for us, but we just never bothered to ask him.

Many prayers God does not answer because we pray selfishly, treating God as our own personal genie in a lamp. *"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (James 4:3).*

It is important for us to pray according to God's heart and God's

will. God would have us determine what he is doing and do it with him, rather than finding our own will and asking him to help us. So find out what he is doing.

It's like this: I hire a man to come help me on the house. He gets into a pile of two-by-fours and starts cutting them all four feet long.

I say, "What are you doing?"

He says, "Well, I'm cutting these four feet long."

"Why are you doing that?"

He says, "Well, I just thought maybe we could . . ."

I say, "Don't do that; I've got another purpose for them."

"I'm just trying to help," he says.

"Well, you wait until I tell you when to cut them and how long."

God is that way. He has a plan. It's his job. It's his project. We can't just run in and say, "Hey, let's build a room out here. Hey, God, let's build a house here. Let's build a church here."

Is it God's will?

You say, "Well, ask anything according to his will, he hears us, and I think that his will . . ."

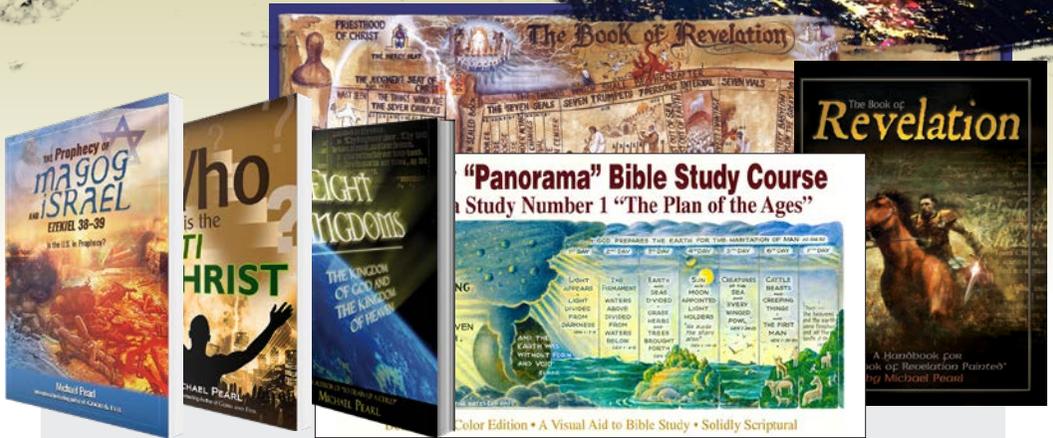
Well, you think it's his will. Find out what the will of God is, and help God do his projects, and in so doing you'll get all your prayers answered. Evoking his name does not change the will of God nor cause him to abandon his plans for you. We should approach God our Father as humble sons, recognizing our extreme limitations, seeking only his will as he reveals it. ■

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. Matthew 24:21

END TIMES

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- | | | | |
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The Phares Shirk Day of Fellowship in Pembroke, KY



A BRIGHT Idea!

Shindigs are a lot of work! If you've wanted to host an event for families to get together and fellowship but logistically can't run an entire shindig, consider hosting a Day of Fellowship in your area!

YOU CAN HOST A

A Day of Fellowship is just that—one day set aside for like-minded families to fellowship together! You can have a speaker for one or two sessions in the morning, and then potluck/picnic for lunch. The afternoons can consist of organized or spontaneous volleyball, frisbee, jam sessions, an optional breakout session, etc.

HERE'S HOW:

1. Find a free park or other facility and reserve it for the day.
2. Advertise on Facebook, and create a Facebook Event. You can also make a business page, and advertise by selecting the area 150 miles around your event, targeting conservative homeschoolers. Have anyone coming RSVP or message you.



Volleyball is always a favorite!



Homeschool families know how to potluck!



Tell everyone to bring their instruments!



Day OF Fellowship

3. Send attendees instructions on what to bring. Example: "Mexican food theme! Bring your a main dish and dessert to feed your family plus 3 extras! Bring your own drinks and chairs."
4. Find a song leader and guitar player. (Make sure you use old hymns or you will lose your audience. People are tired of shallow praise songs.)
5. Find a speaker that believes the Bible and NOT Calvinist. If you need speaker or song leader ideas, email ngj@nogreaterjoy.org and let us know, we may have a few suggestions!
6. Recruit some teens to set up volleyball or other sports stuff.



"He's Happier Than I Have Ever Seen"

A letter from a Reader

Dear Mrs. Pearl,

I recently read your book **CREATED TO BE HIS HELP MEET**, and I wanted to write and share my story with you and tell you what a blessing this book has been to me and my marriage.

Neither my husband nor I began well with relationships. This is a third marriage for each of us. We have felt justified in our previous divorces because of the infidelity and abuse of all our past spouses, but I only recently came to understand my own part in those failures.

For the first seven years of our marriage, I was simply awful and he was a saint to stand by me. The one and only redeeming thing I did was to take on the care of his disabled adult daughter about a year into our marriage. For that alone, he has praised me to anyone who'll listen throughout our marriage. But in every other area, I treated him miserably.

He is a Steady Man, and I am the daughter of a Visionary (who is a pastor) and a strong-willed woman who took charge of my father and our home. My husband came into the marriage with a severely damaged

self-esteem and a lack of confidence regarding relationships, and I came in with a chip on my shoulder. I would NOT be abused again, and I would beat him down as needed to be sure to never be in that position again. He was willing to do just about anything to keep the peace, and I was willing to do just about anything to assure that my rights and my children's rights weren't in any danger of being trampled.



I was willing to do just about anything to assure that my rights and my children's rights weren't in danger of being trampled.

Over the years I neglected every responsibility. I didn't do housework at all unless company was coming or we were out of towels or clean dishes. He picked up several of my responsibilities to keep the peace. He started doing his own laundry after several times I left things in the dryer for days at a time. Then

he bought his own washer and dryer to put in the garage after I couldn't even be depended upon to have the machines empty one day a week so that he could do his clothes. He began getting us pizza every Monday night, taking me out on "dates" every Friday and Saturday night, eating cereal Saturday mornings, making sandwiches or frozen dinners on Sundays, and lots of impromptu fast-food runs on other days—all to keep me from the meltdowns I regularly had over cooking dinner with no advance preparation (I regularly had nothing thawed or didn't have the needed ingredients for any one dish when it came time for dinner).

I was picking fights with him over what I perceived as a total inability to make decisions, and then picking fights over his lack of compromise every time he made a decision I didn't like. I drug him to marriage retreats and counselors regularly to try to "fix" our communication issues, and then got angry about what he had to say when he finally tried to talk to me. I rejected him often when he tried to initiate sex, accusing him of "pawing" or "groping" when his advances were unwelcome, and then blaming him when we'd go weeks or months without having sex.

About three years ago our marriage was at its lowest, and I felt convicted to research what it meant to be submissive to my husband. I determined that it would be my New Year's resolution for 2016 to be submissive to him. Unfortunately, my researching what this could look like in a modern family led me down the rabbit hole of

"Christian domestic discipline" (not the spanking thing, but the rest of the ideas were appealing to me). I decided that I "needed" my husband to be firm with me and not allow me to get away with being awful. I "needed" him to make rules and expect me to follow them. I "needed" him to tell me what



I drug him to marriage retreats and counselors regularly to try to "fix" our communication issues

his expectations were and expect me to obey them. I didn't realize that I was putting a lot of pressure on him to be something he just wasn't. Or that I was taking no responsibility for my own actions, but rather expecting him to fix all our problems. When I couldn't get him to tell me what he wanted, I fell off the wagon and blamed him for the failure. Things went back to our previous norm.

Then 2017 came and a new New Year's resolution. I continued to feel convicted about submission and I realized some of the mistakes I'd made previously. I decided that I needed to ask respectfully for his guidance, but not expect him to give it. And I should figure out what I thought a submissive wife really looked like and try to be that 100%. But I tried to go from nothing to the perfect combination of June Cleaver and Martha Stewart. I was getting up at 4 am to get things ready for him to have breakfast and leave for work, working hard to get our house clean and keep it that way during the day, waiting on him hand and foot all evening, and staying up

late into the night working to try to get it all done. His daughter became ill and after spending a few nights up with her while still trying to do absolutely everything during the day, I totally burned myself out and fell off the wagon again.

.....

I tried to go from nothing to the perfect combination of June Cleaver and Martha Stewart.

Then 2018, and guess what—another New Year’s resolution. I told him that I was sure it hadn’t worked last time because I tried to do too much. I was going to try again, but this time I was only going to do the things that were obviously my responsibilities (clean house and meals cooked) and that I’d do anything he asked (while not expecting him to ask anything) and that I’d try to be respectful. Easy-peasy, right? Well, I fell off the wagon for the third time and reverted back to my old dirty house, disrespectful ways.

This year I found your book. I determined to not make this a resolution but rather a change of heart. I told myself that every failure would be looked at as a chance to learn, that I would apologize and continue being what God called me to be. I would find ways to be helpful every day. I would ask, but not push, for my husband’s guidance. We are one month in, which is longer than I’ve ever made it in these last three years. We have had one slight disagreement, which I apologized for immediately. I asked him what he would like to see me focus on and he

said the housekeeping, so I have been spring cleaning and have things just about spotless now. I check his laundry basket every day and I’m trying to make sure he never has to do his own again. I try to thank him every day for something, treat him with the utmost honor and respect. I try to remind myself of how blessed I am to have a husband who put up with all those rebellious years, and he deserves my complete devotion. I offer to cook every weekend and Monday night. Sometimes he lets me but usually he insists that he’d rather take me out or stick to our old routine. I try to always remember to show gratitude for his generosity. I come to bed every night excited to show him how much I love him. I ask him every night if there is anything I can do to help him the next day, and he has begun asking me to handle little tasks for him from time to time, which thrills my soul after years of him walking on eggshells and never asking anything of me. I love hunting for little things I can take off his plate or things I can do to make him happy. He’s happier than I have ever seen him, and I’m overjoyed to be the one bringing that smile to his face.

.....

He's happier than I have ever seen him, and I'm overjoyed to be the one bringing that smile to his face.

Thank you so much for your help through this wonderful book, Mrs. Pearl. Thank you for revealing God’s will for my life and my marriage. ■



In response

to the article

Mistaken Identity:
Serving vs. Enabling

From the March-April 2019 magazine

ANSWER FROM A

FORMER ENABLER

OK, I have a question. How should a wife handle the husband if he blames her for all discomfort he feels? If she tries to point out that it is his own issue, he gets angrier and verbally and emotionally abusive. Also, how does she handle it when she gets to the point where she sees how his attitude is getting on the kids no matter how hard she tries to be joyful and train them? Please don't say go the church, because the answer is always that the wife must be being disrespectful, selfish, etc.

What if he has never attempted to parent on his own and turns away from outright wrong behaviors? When confronted, the wife gets blamed for having too high expectations. Please don't assume it is the wife's fault. This overlooking of behavior just confuses the kids. The wife wants to honor the Lord and respect and love her husband but is honestly tired. The answer is always that when a wife asks for help, her attitude is wrong.

I'm really seeking answers because I have been in this for 21 years. Only in the last few years have I even considered that maybe, just maybe, it is not OK for the wife to be treated this way.
Wife

Answer from a Former Enabler

Dear Wife,

I will not tell you the situation is all your fault. I can't tell you your attitude is wrong, because I don't know, never having met you or observed your attitude in action. I believe you when you say your husband gets angry and verbally and emotionally abusive. I don't deny that you are in a difficult and exhausting situation, or that your desire is to honor your husband, but you feel hamstrung.

I wish I had read Mike's article *Mistaken Identity: Serving vs. Enabling* ngj.me/enabling 35 years ago before I got married. It would have made me a much better help meet. Let's review a few points from Mike's article.

Quote: *Their [the enabler's] support does not make room for the other to see his or her behavior with discerning eyes; to the contrary, it totally normalizes the broken or selfish state.*

I thought honoring my husband meant letting him do whatever he

wanted, no matter how it affected me or the children, so I kept my mouth shut. I see now that my keeping quiet did two things: (1) it made me feel like I was not allowed to tell him how I really felt; and (2) it made him think his actions were not having long-term effects on those around him. Both were wrong. After 30-some years, we have discussed this issue in depth, and we can both see how my being an enabler did not serve him, or me, or the family unit well. In fact, it was detrimental to all of us. It would have been better for us all for me to speak up and (with honor) describe how his actions were affecting me and the children and all of our relationships. It would have saved us years of hurt feelings.

Quote: *If you walk around on pins and needles, trying to clean up emotionally behind his destructive behavior, not allowing him to feel the consequences of his misdeeds and miswords, you are not being a good help meet; you are being a poor, helpless enabler.*



When you see he is overreacting, tell him so; you are a person and you have a right to have an opinion.

Did you see that? You are a person and you have a right to have an opinion. Never, never think that because the Lord commands you to submit yourself to your husband that you are a second-rate citizen with no rights. Your husband NEEDS to hear your opinion! God gave him a help meet to HELP him because (you guessed it) he NEEDS HELP.

Understand this: submission is not a position God puts you in below your husband. It is an ACTION that God commands you to do yourself. YOU submit YOURSELF. You are in control of you. You decide whether or not to submit yourself today and every day. It is always your choice. But remember, every choice has consequences, so choose wisely. But the choice to submit yourself to his headship over you does not prohibit you from speaking your mind with honor and love.

Submission is not a position God puts you in below your husband. It is an action that God commands you to do yourself.

***Quote:** You can respond to un-toward behavior by voicing your concerns in a manner that does not attempt to punish or humiliate him. Steel yourself with the confidence that you are his helper who is not broken by his*

The God-ordained

role of a woman is the foundation stone that must be laid if you are going to have a

*peaceful,
godly home.*



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verbal blows. Stand up and say with your eyes and demeanor, "I am a person of worth, and I do not deserve this; you have acted improperly, but I forgive you. I will follow your lead as head of the family, but I will not accept as normal your ugly behavior. The fault is yours, not mine, and the marriage is worth healing, so I am here as your faithful and forgiving partner.

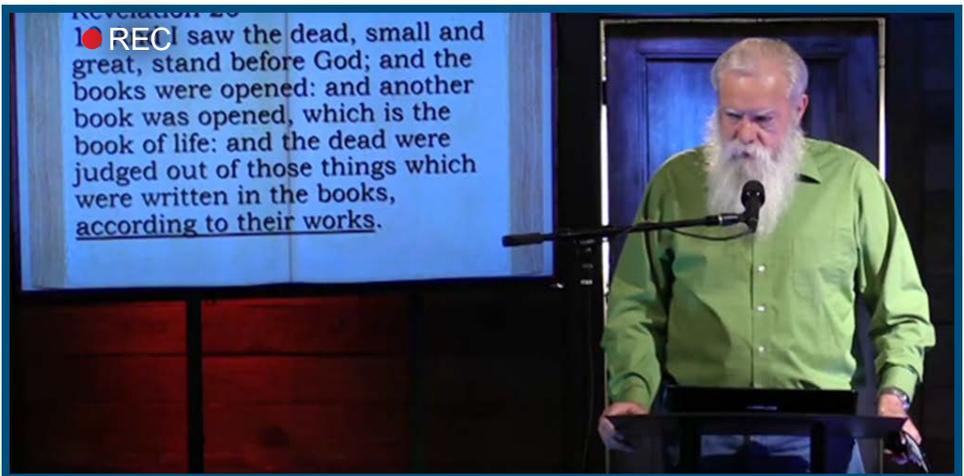
You must find a way to speak your piece while simultaneously submitting yourself to his lead in the family. Tricky? Yes. Delicate balance? Absolutely. But God does not require something of you that is impossible.

I can almost hear you thinking, "Why do I always have to be the one to do right?" and I will tell you why: because you are the one who wrote and asked for advice. So I am giving YOU the advice. If your husband

Tricky? Yes. Delicate balance? Absolutely. But God does not require something of you that is impossible.

wrote in, my husband would write to him and chew his head off for acting like a jerk. But that's not what happened here, is it? I am talking to you, the wife, and I am telling you what God expects of the wife. You cannot control your husband or his actions, but you CAN control what you do. And when you stand before God one day, you'll want to know you did everything in your power to obey his commands. You won't answer for your husband; he will have to give his own answers at the judgment seat. But you will give yours. Make sure you can give the right ones.

Pray and ask for wisdom. *"If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him" (James 1:5).* ■



Watch Mike at thedoor.studio



The Screens Between

By Michael Pearl

A Reader Writes...

How do you continue to be submissive when your husband is passive? We have always disagreed where our children are concerned; I'm a disciplinarian and he lets most everything slide. Now that the kids are 14 and 11, he is fine with letting them have unfettered internet access. My daughter gets on Snapchat, Instagram, and other sites. I put the tablet away or change the password and he gives it back. I'm at a loss. I have tried to gently discuss it and he will admit that it is a problem but then he gives the tablet back. I am at a loss! –Roberta



Michael Answers

Dear lady, I feel the frustration of your situation. It is difficult for me to tell a struggling wife to just submit and take it for the sake of peace, but where the children are being harmed it stretches my convictions to tell you to just let it be. We can suffer the loss of our personal rights and still maintain our peace, but to see our children suffering is a different matter. I truly feel your pain, and for that reason we both need to seek to be objective in our response. Let's think this through.

Firstly, I agree that it is a very destructive thing for children to have internet access and social media. Even the secularists are blowing that horn. But you will not achieve your goal by direct confrontation and defiance. You must find a way to change the heart of your husband. You can only change people around you by changing yourself. It takes a piece of flint opposing a piece of steel to ignite a fire. If you can't change the nature of the steel, then stop being flint.

You said your husband gives over because he is weak, but why is he weak? And why does his weakness go in only one direction? Why does he yield to the kids and not to you? It seems he is strong where you are concerned. Why?

You confidently characterize yourself as a "disciplinarian." I would never characterize either my wife or myself, nor any of my grown children, as disciplinarians. I had a schoolteacher who I would call a disciplinarian. No one liked her. She was cold, removed,



narrow faced, and narrow of soul. We relished the thought of defying her and not getting caught. Our resistance seemed just.

You can only change people around you by changing yourself.

Over the years I have observed a pattern in marriages. Where children are concerned, the weaker spouse usually tries to balance the more dominant one as a way of protecting the children from extremes. Then the dominant parent reacts by being more extreme, again as a way to achieve his/her concept of balance. Reaction gives way to reaction until the children are fully aware that they have two parents at opposite extremes. They will always side with the more lenient parent against the "disciplinarian." That increases the anger, and the reactions become more severe until there is all-out war, then divorce. The parents fight over the children until they are pulled apart, each confident it was the other spouse's fault. While it is true that one or the other was the catalyst that got the avalanche started, now the

original offense is long since forgotten, replaced by a pattern perpetuated by two people who feel they are right.

So, you wrote seeking advice on how to get your desired end—social media- and pornography-free children—and so far all I have done is suggest that you may share the blame for the situation. That is because you are the only member of the conflict I can address. You don't need me to tell you where he is at fault. As I said, you can only change the situation by changing yourself.

Instead of countermanding your husband, get online and find the best and briefest secular (scientific) article on the evils of social media and internet pornography. At a time when there is no tension, in a non-judgmental way share with him what you read and give him a printed copy, asking him to tell you what he thinks about it. Continue sharing articles about once a week until you have “educated” him on the subject. Articles that tell personal stories of children being destroyed by social media will also be effective. Then when you feel the time is right and the air is not filled with confrontation, go somewhere—just

the two of you—and ask him what he thinks about restricting their access. If the two of you can come to a satisfactory agreement, then have him tell the children. Make him responsible by promoting him to chief lawmaker.

If he is not convinced by the research or he gives over after a time, then set up all the computers and phones so you are able to review everything the kids do online and inform them of it. There are people who can do that for you and show you how to maintain it. Don't do it in secret. Your husband should know you are spying on everyone, and they are spying on you. It is a household held accountable.

You will not achieve your goal by direct confrontation and defiance.

If you and your husband do not come to a congenial unified front, you are going to be voted least popular for the rest of your life. The children will not like you, and they will dishonor you, seeking to cause you pain.

As I have said, light is a painful thing; truth is lonely. When light

You can only change people around you by changing yourself.



and truth are held in pride, it is destructive. We can never go back to days of blissful ignorance, but if we could, some homes would actually be happier and relationships would not deteriorate. If you could be a cheerful soul, enjoying your children and husband while they dawdle away their innocence on social media, you would have their heart and ear and be able

to bear some influence in their lives as they are testing the waters of life and becoming adults.

I say this not to cause you to relinquish the light you have. Rather, I want you to see that maintaining your joy and peace and fellowship is the most important thing you can do. If you lose relationships trying to change others, you have lost all. ■



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CHOOSE *a* WIFE?

By Michael Pearl

Question

I am a young man in college. I attend a great church where there are many godly young women whom I'm around and interested in, but when is the time to pursue a relationship? Or at what point do I need to start engaging her family, and how should one go about this? I have been raised in a home where marriage is taken seriously but also seen as a great blessing. I'm still in the process of getting

ready, but any advice would be greatly appreciated. Anything on how to approach, how to observe, how to know her, and how to treat my relationships with women now (in a state of almost but not quite readiness). –BH

Michael Answers

This sounds like it was written by your mother, not a young man in college overrun with pheromones and

hormones. When I was in college, I fought a continuous battle of self-restraint. I was a country kid in a candy store. I had a quarter to spend, and I took every opportunity to do some window shopping. It would be years before I would spend my only coin, but it was burning a hole in my pocket every day with the very thought of finally choosing among the lollypops.

As far as the flesh is concerned, there are a great number of girls who appear to be “the right one.” You can tell by the way their hair falls across their shoulders, the way they smile, and especially the twinkle in their eyes. For that reason most guys do not choose wisely.

“Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.” (Proverbs 6:25)

“Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet:” (Isaiah 3:16)

God—not the Devil—made the sex drive. Sexual passion is as holy as morning worship. But it has proven to be the universal downfall of humanity—the most powerful tempting force. He who survives until marriage and possesses his vessel with restraint and honor is a holy man indeed (1 Thessalonians 4:4).

I commend you for your objectivity and desire to get it right. Christian young men usually assume that if the girl is a professed Christian with a good testimony, then she qualifies as a legitimate choice if he is attracted to

her. But it is clear that you understand there are other factors to be considered. I will address your questions one at a time.

I am a young man in college. I attend a great church where there are many godly young women who I'm around and interested in, but when is the time to pursue a relationship?

Don't even think about a romantic relationship until you are finished with college and are installed in a vocation making sufficient money to sustain a wife and child. God didn't create the male body to be brought to a boil and then kept hot on a low burner for months or years.

As to the “many godly young women,” it is very healthy to be around many suitable mates and interact with them socially. It sharpens your ability to know what you like and don't like in a female. Furthermore, you will have “crushes” on different girls from time to time—without a romantic relationship—and that will enable you to not be deceived by those spontaneous attractions that you will have every now and then.

I have seen many young people deprived of social experiences fall for the first person that shows them attention, the first one that causes their heart to flutter, only to discover after a few months of marriage that they have nothing in common and don't really like each other. A marriage that starts like that can evolve into love, but it takes time and effort during a

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period that should have been a perpetual honeymoon if they had made a more informed choice.

Or at what point do I need to start engaging her family, and how should one go about this?

The “talk to the dad” occasion is a commitment to marriage. If the girl is old enough to be married and is away at college, her parents have already relinquished day-to-day control and the girl is making her own decisions. You need not talk to the parents until the two of you are committed to marriage.

The exception lies with the girl. If she comes from a culture of courtship or has made some kind of commitment to her father, then you will need to honor her commitment and show respect to her and her father in whatever manner she deems fit. I know that most young men turn away from girls who have elaborate step-by-step procedures to winning their favor. You will have to decide if it is worth the emotional cost to “court the dad.”

On a side note: You 35-year-old guys should be aware that you have an ever-increasing field to choose from, as many girls encumbered with the “courtship” rituals have been passed over and left unpursued.

Some of them are wonderful maidens who would make very thankful wives. And their dads are no longer so demanding. But be careful. You might say to him, “Sir, I would like to speak to you about your dau . . .” and he will interrupt with, “Her mother and I would be delighted; would next weekend do?”

(I know I got off track with the former paragraph, but it is my article, and I can write it any way I want to.)

I have been raised in a home where marriage is taken seriously but also seen as a great blessing.

I don't get the “but also.” Can marriage not be taken seriously as a great blessing? I can only assume you feel that the way your family “takes marriage” could be construed to be less than a blessing. You will have to work that one out on your own. It missed me by a mile.

Anything on how to approach, how to observe, how to know her, and how to treat my relationships with women now (in a state of almost but not quite readiness).

Treat all women as someone else's wife until the two of you have made a public commitment to marriage. Then you need to protect her sacred virginity and honor right up until the

“I dos” just in case the marriage does not happen. Do not take the risk of leaving her as used goods for the one who will marry her.

You get to know girls in social contexts where the guard is down and no one is performing. You get to know girls by visiting their home, church, and friends. Look on social media. If she is ugly there, she is ugly.

The very best context to really get to know a girl is on a long weekend trip, crammed together on a bus or sleeping on the floor of a church in the Philippines or in a hut in a third-world country. Ministering in front of abortion clinics or teaching Child Evangelism Bible Clubs in poor neighborhoods works too. Assisting in children's church or spending four hours preparing a meal for 150 people may reveal a lot when it seems you are not going to be ready on time. Anything to get everyone tired and under stress, throw them off guard, and let the real person come out is what you need to get to know the heart and emotions of someone. Dating is so superficial as to be a source of deception when it comes to knowing a person.

Happy holy hunting. As a man married to the same woman for nearly 50 years, I can say it is the best ride this world has to offer. ■



An Upset Mother Writes...

I appreciated the article in this most recent magazine "The Shaft". I know it is an issue that needs to be addressed, as immodesty is so rampant even in the church. I thought Mr. Pearl gave an excellent answer. I would caution though, the details of the struggle of the young man who wrote in the submission was a bit graphic. God says in Romans to be simple concerning evil. The article brought up thoughts and ideas that had not entered my mind previously and that now I have to get out. I certainly would not want my sons reading your magazine. I have unsubscribed from your magazine in order to preserve the purity of my children.

Michael Answers

You will be removed from our mailing list as requested. But know, dear lady, you are not the only mother I have offended.

A woman walked up to me at a recent shindig and said something to the effect of "I just wanted to tell you that last year I was offended when you spoke about pornography and sex. I did not want my 11-year-old exposed to that kind of information. I didn't want him to lose his innocence. We have raised him to be wise and disciplined and protected him from the opportunity to be exposed to trash. And I noticed that after you spoke he didn't want to come hear you again. I knew he was offended. After we got home from the shindig I noted that he was quieter and more subdued. About two weeks later he came to me and confessed that he had been using



pornography for some time and that was the reason he was upset. He came across it accidentally but secretly went back for more. I am so sorry. What can I do now?"

That was by no means the first time I had heard a story like that, and I know it will not be the last. In fact, it is becoming the trend for Christian families. We have lost this generation to perversion. The only question is "will we be able to save a few?" I know that I am a voice crying in the wilderness. Most of you reading this think that your kids are different. All boys, without exception, will find pornography fascinating and will go back for more. One exposure is like the first concussion: it causes damage. Each exposure after that just brings the child closer to being a cast-away. Adults, whose worldviews and

perspectives on relationships to the opposite sex are already formed, can have limited (not ongoing) exposure to pornography and not be greatly harmed; but a child, especially before the age of about 17 or 18, who sees porn is permanently imprinted with a total perversion regarding the marital union. If he repents and walks a circumspect path, he can overcome, but he will always struggle to maintain a wholesome view of sex. I know. I have spoken with hundreds of adults and some children who have visually feasted at the devil's table.

After their children are exposed I am asked, "What can I do now?" Never trust your son again. You should not have trusted him in the first place. The frontal cerebral cortex, the part of the brain that processes caution and decision making, is not fully developed until the age of 25. Children do not have the brains to be wise. They do not appreciate the consequences. When I was 13 years old, if I'd had the opportunity to view pornography I would have done so, and then gone back for more and more. And I was the most spiritually minded, good Christian boy I knew.

Be frank with your son. Admit to the allure of the forbidden. Explain his inability to make wise decisions. Warn him with examples from popular culture and from acquaintances of the ruin it will bring. Tell him that you know the power of the temptation he will face, and acknowledge to him that you cannot put a fence around him high enough to prevent him from accessing pornography. If he is deter-

mined to get it, he will find a way.

In our community, one of the Amish boys got a cell phone and started looking at porn. He shared it freely with the other guys and it created a pandemic that swept through the community. When it was discovered and the parents confiscated his cell phone, he bought another. When they impounded that phone, he went to Walmart and bought ten phones so he would always have a backup. He was now an addict and needed the porn on a daily basis. Some of the families moved away to get their boys out of the circle of influence, but the evil was now within and they couldn't outrun it.

So what can you do? Will you do it if it costs you? Tell your son that though you cannot prevent him from being creative in accessing porn, you will remove all immediate opportunities in the home—whatever it takes. Eliminate all computers and cell phones connected to the Internet except those maintained by a password. No more Netflix, Amazon, cable, or any device that allows him to select movies.

Having taken these things out of his life, replace them with more fellowship, hard work, and creative hobbies like sports, mechanics, building, etc. Keep him busy.

When I said don't trust him, I mean it fully, but do not communicate a constant air of distrust or suspicion. Do not slip around with a "what are you doing in there?" attitude. Live in joy, hope, and expectation that he will overcome and live a normal life. ■

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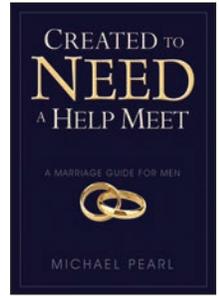


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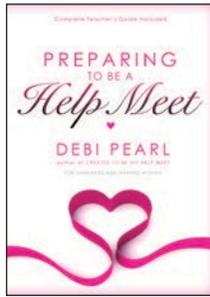


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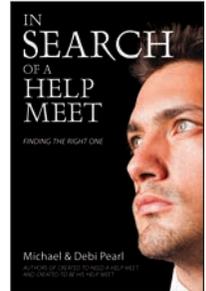


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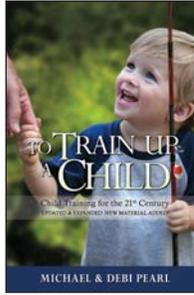
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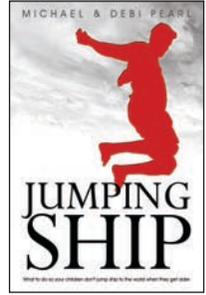
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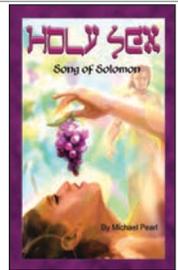


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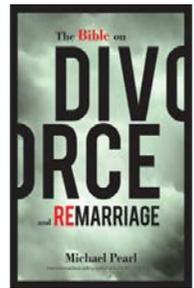
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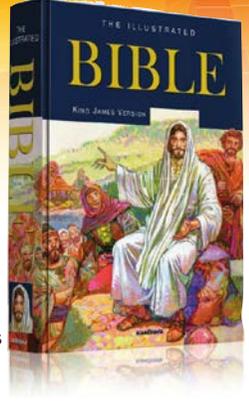
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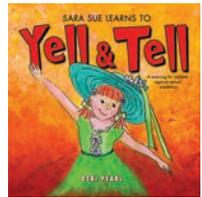
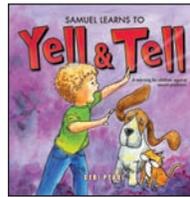
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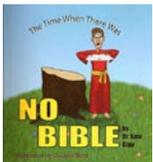
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- 9700-12 Spanish Samuel - 1 Book..... ~~\$9.95~~ **\$9.95**
- 9710-12 Spanish Sara Sue - 1 Book..... ~~\$9.95~~ **\$9.95**



The Time When There Was No Bible

Did you know there was a time when there was no Bible? This book will help answer your children's questions about the greatest Book ever written, such as how we got the Bible, and where it is today. By Claudia Wes. 30 pages.

- 8606-10 1 Book ~~\$6.95~~ **\$6.95**



Good and Evil Comic Books

Several chapters from our popular book *Good and Evil* have been printed as individual comic books. Kids will beg you for the next chapter. 6 x 10 in. 28 pages each, soft cover, full color.

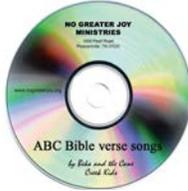
- 3761-01 English Part 1..... ~~\$2.99~~ **\$0.10**
- 3762-02 English Part 2..... ~~\$2.99~~ **\$0.10**
- 3763-03 English Part 3..... ~~\$2.99~~ **\$0.10**
- 3761-12 Spanish Part 1..... ~~\$2.99~~ **\$0.10**
- 3762-12 Spanish Part 2..... ~~\$2.99~~ **\$0.10**

FAMILY AUDIO

All audio is also available to purchase as instant downloads via our web store:

<http://nogreaterjoy.org/shop>

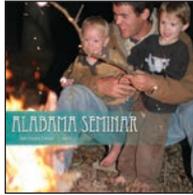
ABC Bible Verse Songs



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

1010-45 1 Audio CD **\$6.95**

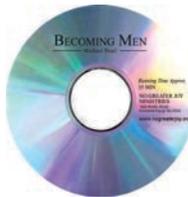
Alabama Seminar



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

8325-55 1 MP3 CD **\$12.95**

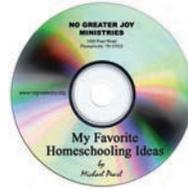
Becoming a Man



This message is for parents concerned about raising their boys up to be men and it is for fathers who never learned to be real men.

1417-10 1 Audio CD **\$6.95**

My Favorite Homeschooling Ideas



Debi discusses her best homeschooling ideas. 20+ years of accumulated wisdom. A bestseller!

6170-45 1 Audio CD **\$6.95**

Only Men



Michael Pearl speaks directly and frankly to men about their responsibilities as husbands.

6650-45 1 Audio CD **\$6.95**
6650-12 Spanish Audio CD **\$6.95**

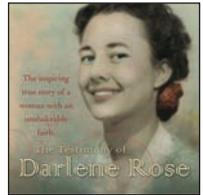
Starting Over



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

8338-45 1 Audio CD **\$6.95**

Testimony of Darlene Rose



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

8605-55 1 MP3 CD **\$12.95**

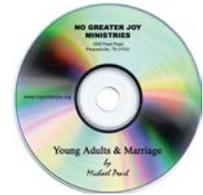
When Children Die



Do children who die prior to reaching accountability go to heaven? What about miscarried or stillborn babies, or the two-year-old child who died? You will be thrilled with what God has in store for your departed child.

9550-45 1 Audio CD **\$6.95**

Young Adults and Marriage



This message, was given to help parents and their young adult children make wise decisions. It has the story of all five of our children finding their mates.

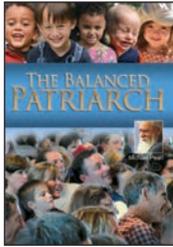
9810-45 1 Audio CD **\$6.95**

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FAMILY DVDS

The Balanced Patriarch

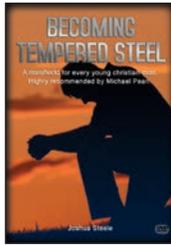
When do children cease to be under parental authority? Michael Pearl goes to the Bible and tells you what God has to say. 60 min.



1407-75 1 DVD **\$12.95**

Becoming Tempered Steel

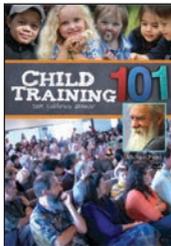
As a young teenager Joshua Steele dedicated his life to serving God and has followed his calling with the force of tempered steel. He came to Cane Creek and addressed the young men on the subject of moral purity and preparation to serve God. His messages come highly recommended by all who have heard them. 135 min.



8325-55 1 DVD **\$12.95**

Child Training 101

If you want to introduce child-training principles to a friend, this is the one DVD to give them. It takes the viewer back to the basics of child training. Taught by Michael Pearl. Includes a 25-minute Q&A!



2007-75 1 DVD **\$12.95**

Good and Evil Animated Series

Good and Evil: The Ultimate Comic Book Action Bible is also a professionally animated video series! Over 7 hours of dramatic content that will engage any viewer, any age.



3782-75 G&E Animated Series
 3-DVD Set (7+ hrs.) **\$29.95**

Knife & Tomahawk Throwing for Fun

In this fun-to-watch DVD, renowned knife thrower Michael Pearl teaches the basics of knife throwing. 60 min.



5310-00 Knife Throwing Bundle .. **\$54.95**

Knife Throwing Starter Bundle contains 3 throwing knives, sheath and DVD. Retail value \$73.91.

5300-75 1 DVD **\$12.95**

Making Herbs Simple, Vol. 1

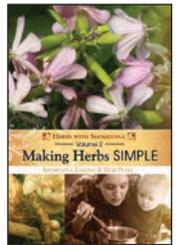
Join Shoshanna (Pearl) Easing and friends as they teach you how to identify and use herbs growing in your own backyard! Make poultices, herbal hair treatments, tinctures, and much more. Includes a companion guidebook. 78 min.



5700-75 1 DVD **\$24.95**

Making Herbs Simple, Vol. 2

A hands-on DVD about herbs. Shoshanna will take you into the wild, teach you to identify herbs, explain what they can be used for, and how to make a remedy out of them. Learn how truly simple it is to use herbs. 75 min.

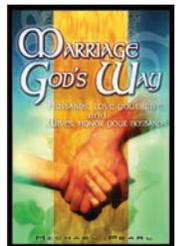


5710-75 1 DVD **\$24.95**

Marriage God's Way

Husbands and Wives

Husbands, learn how to sanctify your wife and cleanse her of spots, wrinkles, and blemishes. You have the power to bring your wife into the fullness of all that God intended her to be. Wives, learn the freedom of honoring and ministering to your man. Help him become all that God intended him to be. 184 min.

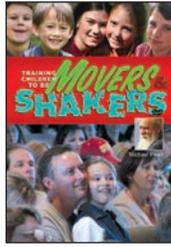


4140-75 2-DVD Set **\$19.95**

FAMILY DVDs

Movers & Shakers

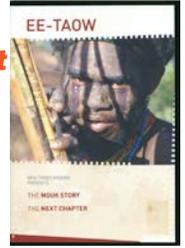
Michael encourages parents to train their children to be tomorrow's movers and shakers. Teach them to become leaders, entrepreneurs, statesmen—framers of tomorrow. 50 min.



6113-75 1 DVD \$12.95

Ee-Taow and The Next Chapter

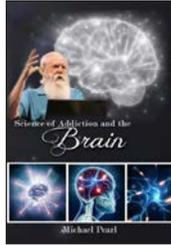
This is a remarkable story of a native tribe being won to the Lord. The gospel is presented chronologically and the results are spectacular. It is a great video to watch with your children, grandchildren, Sunday School students, etc.



2910-75 1 DVD \$19.95

Science of Addiction and the Brain

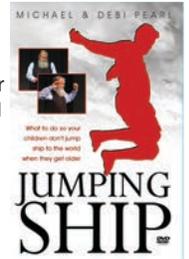
Addiction is the state of being enslaved to a substance or habit. At the 2014 Smoky Mountains Shindig, Michael delivered five packed messages supported by 185 animated PowerPoint™ slides on this subject.



8190-75 1 DVD \$12.95

Jumping Ship

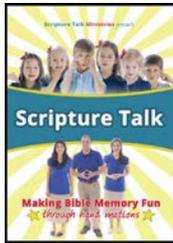
Now you can view the two hour live presentation from Michael Pearl addressing the topic of “How can I keep my children from jumping ship and joining a carnival cruise to Pleasure Island?”



4940 1 DVD \$12.95

Scripture Talk

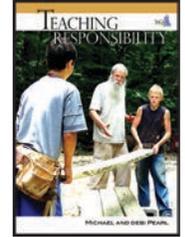
Scripture Talk combines hand motions, visual aids, and creative teaching to equip children of all ages to hide over 70 Bible verses in their hearts, and apply it to their lives! Each of the 10 passages on the DVD includes a group of children demonstrating the passage, verse-by-verse teaching of the words and motions, and an engaging lesson explaining the passage and how the children can apply it to their lives. All Scripture is from the King James version.



8200-75 1 DVD \$17.99

Teaching Responsibility

In this seminar, Michael Pearl uses humorous stories and practical examples to illustrate the simple process of training your children to work without complaint. Cut into his speaking presentation are hundreds of video clips and photos that help illustrate his message. Debi says, “The introduction is just too fun to miss!” 119 min.



8500-00 2-DVD Set..... \$19.95

50 Questions 50 Answers

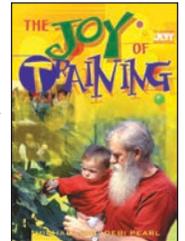
Unscripted and spontaneous, follow Mike around the farm as he answers your Bible questions. Varied questions and answers in a changing context makes this series captivating. 270 min.



3000-75 1 DVD \$12.95

The Joy of Training

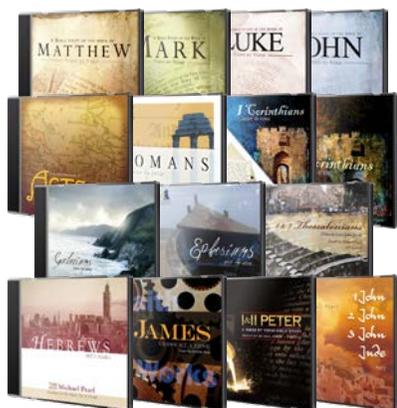
Michael and Debi Pearl tell how they successfully trained up their five children with love, humor, the rod, and a King James Bible. This set contains hundreds of snapshots and video clips of family and children, illustrating the things being taught. 180 min.



4910-75 2-DVD Set..... \$24.95

And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.
2 Timothy 2:2

BIBLE TOPICS



Verse-by-Verse Audio Teaching

Michael Pearl teaches in-depth through the New Testament, examining each word and its usage. Practical and foundational Bible teaching that will build your faith in the Word of God and teach you to study on your own.

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- 5640-55 Luke (1 MP3 CD)..... **\$12.95**
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- 2060-55 1 Corinthians & Colossians
(1 MP3 CD)..... **\$12.95**
- 2061-55 2 Corinthians
(1 MP3 CD)..... **\$12.95**
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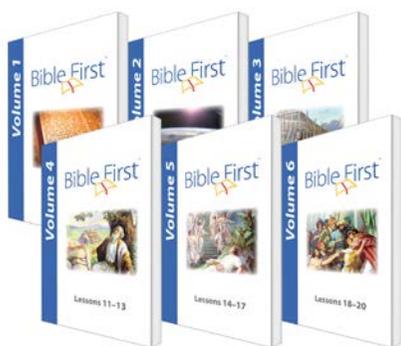
BIBLE TOPICS

- 8700-45 Two Steps to Heaven
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(1 Audio CD) **\$6.95**
- 9650-55 Witnesses Unto Me
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Bible Topics MP3s/CDs

Various topical studies taught by Michael Pearl from the King James Bible, of interest to new Christians as well as Bible scholars. This is some great in-depth material to grow the faith of believers! They also make great gifts.



Bible First

Bible First is a gateway into a world that few people have ever explored. In just 20 short lessons, you'll experience an exciting tour of Genesis, the first of 66 books which make up the Bible. Genesis is a foundational narrative which provides the key to unlocking the mysteries of Scripture. This is homeschool Bible curriculum at its finest!

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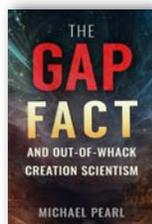
USB Verse-by-Verse Bible Teaching Audio Library



Over 185 hours of verse-by-verse Bible teaching. US orders **ship free**, and comes with a plastic case. Plugs into any USB port!

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The Gap Fact and Out-of-Whack Creation Scientism



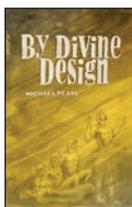
The Bible clearly declares that the earth existed before the 6-Day Creation. It is time to expose the truth about the Gap Fact.

By Michael Pearl. 160 pages.

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By Divine Design

If you are philosophically minded, this book will appeal to you. It addresses the question, "Why, God, did you let this happen?" By Michael Pearl. 85 pages.



2330-10 1 Book **\$7.95**

The Prophecy of Magog and Israel Ezekiel 38-39



Is the U.S. in prophecy? Conditions are rapidly aligning with Ezekiel's 2,700-year-old prophecy. Fulfillment seems imminent. This little book reveals the identity of Magog and the invading forces.

By Michael Pearl. 64 pages.

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Revelation Poster/Handbook

Print of Mike's original painting showing the events of Revelation in chronological order. The accompanying handbook is filled with Old Testament references and commentary. Poster is 40 x 19 in. on heavy, glossy paper.

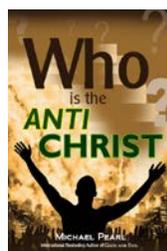


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Who Is the Antichrist?

One of the most misunderstood doctrines of Scripture concerns antichrist. This little book will point you in the right direction and launch your study of this critical subject.

By Michael Pearl. 96 pages.



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Dr. Samuel Gipp (30 pages)..... **\$6.95**
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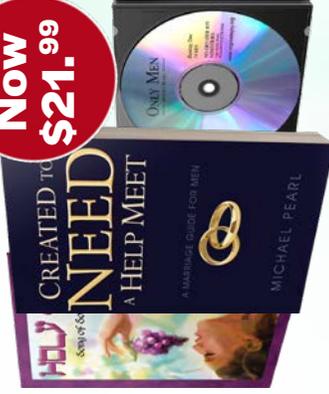


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