

SEPT.-OCT. 2018

We have a
SURPRISE
for you!!!
-pg 23-

I have
NO GREATER
Joy than to hear that
my children
walk in truth

III John 4

Photo by Verna Shirk



♡ showers of Blessings ♡

TABLE
of Contents

Believe I Can..... 3

Depression Grooving Research..... 9

Psalm 107 to Heal Depression 13

The Gap Fact and Out-of-Whack
Creation Scientism..... 23

Catalog..... 31

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

OUR FRIEND AND CO-WORKER
MELODY HAS MARRIED

Last evening a large wedding party was assembled on the creek bank to witness a lovely outdoor wedding. Soft lights were strung on the trees, tables were laden with pretty things, and the sound system was in place. But Tennessee weather is something to be reckoned with. The warm late summer downpour came quite suddenly and right on the minute. All of us carefully fixed-up ladies look quite different soaking wet with hair stringing down and mascara-stained faces.

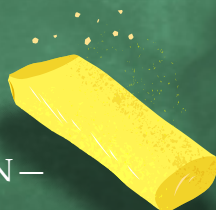
But here in the hills of Tennessee we improvise. It was time for us to show our distinguished Canadian guests and family as well as the music-making Louisiana guest and family how to have a wet Tennessee wedding. Being a soggy mess was a great equalizer. We all laughed with the fun and joy as the bride (white, lacey train dragging in the mud) raced down the muddy path leading to her groom. The preacher shouted to be heard over the din of pouring rain but all I heard was, "I pronounce you man and wife." It was grand!

NO GREATER JOY MINISTRIES, INC.
1000 Pearl Road • Pleasantville, TN 37033
www.nogreaterjoy.org
SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2018
Volume 24 | Number 5
Printed in the USA
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Sierra Leilani Hallman, daughter of John and Sydney Hallman and granddaughter of our beloved Pastor Bob and Becky "Ain't she a doll?!"

Believe

I CAN

—THE POWER OF MINDSET EDUCATION—



I felt a lump in
my throat as
I watched my
8-year-old son
slowly stand up.

Holding his Bible, he looked at the phrase his Sunday School teacher had written on the whiteboard and asked him to read out loud. She was a good teacher, she just didn't know that Gabriel had struggled to learn phonics and had only begun to painstakingly sound out words on his own volition several months before. ►►

By Debi Pearl
Illustrated by Joe Rising



He looked down at his Bible, and then his eyes met mine and filled with tears at the humiliation he was experiencing, surrounded by his peers who couldn't understand why a child their age couldn't read as well as them.

The above scenario never occurred, but it played out in my mind many times during my early years of homeschooling. Most homeschool moms have fleeting worries that their child will be the one sitting there feeling the shame when asked to read publicly. Your mind plays tricks on you as you stare at your 6-year-old who still can't remember the short sound for "a," and in your insecurity, you think of this child at 10 or 11 years old still not reading. Most homeschool moms have experienced this panic. The more children you have, the more likely you are to grow slack as the years roll by. Panic no more, for research has found the answer, and it is as easy as assuming the right mindset. For the last several years the internet has been burning up with new information garnered

from scientific research on the brain and how we learn. They are able to view brain activity in real time and observe the learning process as it is happening. We now know what teaching methods are most effective, and how to work around "learning difficulties."

Yesterday I watched a researcher speak of scanning the brains of children who did not have the mental capability to learn to read, like some of those with Down syndrome. Since scientists know exactly what area of the brain lights up when reading, they were able to devise a means to excite that area of the brain in children formerly considered physically incapable of learning. I must say that I have been wishing I had another life so I could jump in the game with them. But this is a rabbit trail and not what I am writing about. My subject is mindset.

MINDSET

A group of brain researchers went to a first-grade teacher and asked her to allow her 30 students to take part in



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their research. The researchers told Miss Teacher that she had been chosen to be a part of this study due to her excellence, but she had to agree to the terms. She would need to sign papers stating that she would follow their curriculum exactly, and she needed to understand that she would be videoed every day to make sure she was being a quality teacher and keeping to the curriculum. She would also sign papers stating she would not speak of the research, the children's work, or anything about the program until the experiment was over. The researchers tested the children, then came back to Miss Teacher and told her their results. Amazingly, of her 30 students, five

showed an extremely high IQ. She was cautioned to teach all students with equality regardless of the test results, as this was critical to their research.

Miss Teacher did her best and the researchers checked on her regularly. They saw she was an excellent teacher and did her best for all her students. At the end of the school year the researchers came back to test the students. They laid the results before the teacher for her to view. "Are you surprised at the results, especially the superior test results from the five students with the high IQ?"

Miss Teacher smiled. "Not at all. Those five are truly brilliant, so I would expect these results."

Unknowingly she had communicated a positive expectation






The researchers
then revealed the true
nature of the experiment.

“Miss Teacher, we lied to you. At the beginning of the year those five students’ tests were pulled out of the stack at random and had the same test results and the same basic IQ as all the other first graders we tested. You, Miss Teacher, were our research experiment. We wanted to prove that the mindset of a teacher could bring up the testing grade of the average student.” Unknowingly she had communicated a positive expectation to the five average students and it had affected their self-image in a way that caused them to excel. Wow! Does that explain a lot

of what I have seen in my half century
of observation!

"I can do it"

As homeschooling parents, we hold in our hands a glorious opportunity. Scientific research PROVES that true intelligence is not developed in rote learning, memorization, or learning so as to pass a test. This type of schooling temporarily scores the brain but does not make permanent grooves. For your child to excel, it takes a healthy mindset—first the parents, then the child. The mind must be excited by ideas, concepts, and stimulated to investigate and learn for the sheer love of it. A brain under pressure to learn, or to



Scientific research PROVES that true intelligence is not found in rote learning, memorization, or learning so as to pass a test. This type of schooling temporarily scores the brain but does not make permanent connections.

pass a test, shrinks—literally—under the pressure.

I clearly remember a few teachers in my elementary and junior high years. Some were sweet, some were mean, some were lazy, and a scant few were really interested in pouring into my life and helping me learn. One such burning star was a librarian. She was the only teacher in all my years who noticed my lack of hearing. That is a remarkable oversight for all my teachers since I am stone deaf in the right ear and have some loss in the left. Think about that! All those years and not a single teacher ever noticed that I couldn't hear except for the librarian, and she wasn't even one of my regular teachers. She was

old and needed help putting books on the shelves. She offered me a job as her assistant librarian, which meant I could skip a few other classes each day. I was eager to help, and I wanted to please her because she believed I was smart—I could tell by the way she talked to me. She looked at me when she talked, not over me. She asked my opinion. Each day when I finished my library chores, she would choose a book and we would sit, one on one, and discuss the information we read. It was only 30 minutes or so a day and she was often interrupted by other students, but those minutes were the highlight of my junior high years and most likely the turning point in my education.

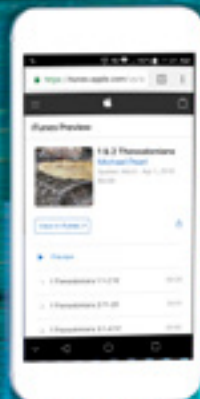
It was her mindset toward me that won me over. I was not finishing my classwork, nor were we going through any curriculum that would help me finish my year's schooling. The things we read were of no consequence to formal education. Yet, when I think of my real learning, it was in the library talking through subjects such as shoeing horses, how to write, ocean currents, why opossums hang by their tails and carry their babies on their backs, and what can be found in mud puddles. She was my teacher supreme.

Homeschool mom, be the librarian. Look into your children's eyes and discuss subjects of interest—any subject. Believe in them to the point that they feel your respect for their minds. Assume they are set apart, but do not resort to “positive affirmation,” for empty words of how “special” a child is can leave the child with a burden to perform. And in all your doing, don't be bound by the day-to-day pages found in some dumb workbook that a



bored educator put together on a bad day. Don't let that be your guide. Have a mindset that frees the child from the need to learn and turns him on to the joy of learning. If you could view his brain in an FMRI machine you would see the lights coming on and forming millions of new connections that actually raise his IQ and increase his happiness in the art of learning. ■

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DEPRESSION

GROOVING RESEARCH

By Debi Pearl

Today over 50 percent of Americans are on some mind/mood altering substance. In any given church, from horse-and-buggy Amish to staunch Baptist or devout Catholic, you will find a high percentage of the ladies and some of the men using anti-depressants just to keep their lives together. Many reading this article popped a pill just this morning.

Over the many years of counseling people we have heard the same excuse stated a thousand ways: "I can't help how I feel." That puts the counselor at a real disadvantage. You can't help people who can't help it. People tell us, "I can't help who I love, it just happened." Or a husband says to us, "It has a grip on me. I know it is hurting my family, but I just can't help it." Then there is Mama as she

explains why she acts the way she does: "I am so stressed. I can't take them anymore. Rage just takes over."

We hear it over and over, "I am depressed. I'm sensitive and get so hurt."

"Why did God let that happen? Why didn't he do something? I can't help being disappointed and angry."

"Grief is just there...I can't let go. I know it is making me sick but I just can't help it."

WHERE DOES DEPRESSION COME FROM?

WHY DOES IT STRIKE CHRISTIANS AND SINNERS ALIKE?

AND WHAT CAN I DO ABOUT IT?

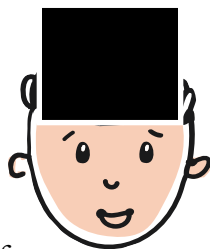
Research scientists can actually see chemicals in the brain flowing over the neurons and synapses. Good thoughts release good chemicals that create good connections, strengthening your mind and emotions. Bad thoughts release toxic chemicals that break down connections, which will, over time, shrink the brain, dumbing us down and, of course, bringing on emotional discord/depression. Anger, bitterness, and blame account for most stinking thinking, thus most depression.

Now science in studying the brain has proven that there is no such thing as "can't help it." Mike and I knew all through these 50 years of counseling, but what could we say to someone who came to us for help? Call them a liar? Tell them they could help it if they'd just repent and turn to God? In

most cases they were too entrenched behind the wall of inability and victimhood. Oh, the beauty of having a new weapon against this age old self-deception. Now we can say, "Let's go get a scan of your brain. I'm paying."

Through the means of many different kinds of brain scans, science can now see what we are thinking, loving, and hating, and how we are creating our own brains. *"For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he..." (Proverbs 23:7).* If you listen to research scientists lecturing these days, you will hear them explaining the neurons and synapses in great detail, and then they will say with amazement, "You are the master of your own ship; you are the author of your own brain; you choose your own fate and you create your own depression. We are who and what we choose to be." God says, *"For out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh. A good man out of the good treasure of the heart bringeth forth good things: and an evil man out of the evil treasure bringeth forth evil things" (Matthew 12:34-35).* *"Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life" (Proverbs 4:23).*

Our brains are no longer housed in small, mysterious black boxes. It is quite sobering to be studying the newest research in the science of the brain. Our thoughts and intents can be exposed to whomever happens to be looking at our scan. Just a few years ago doctors debated whether alcoholism (or any other





ism) was a disease or a lifestyle. It is clearly visible on the screen now: it is a choice, one drink at a time, one lust at a time, one escape to a high until a brain habit is formed. As choices take us where we never thought we would go, choices can also take us where we know we should be. Science says there is no inability, no victims, just opportunity to change the very brain that is the control room of our bodily passions and emotional responses. The human will is an attribute of the soul, not a product of chemicals or neurons. When everything about the body and brain is out of sync, the spirit of man can choose and change his destiny.

THE WHOLE MAN

There are other things to consider, such as childhood trauma, which is what happened to the author of the article *Psalms 107* in this magazine. But, as in her situation, you can let your past or circumstance destroy

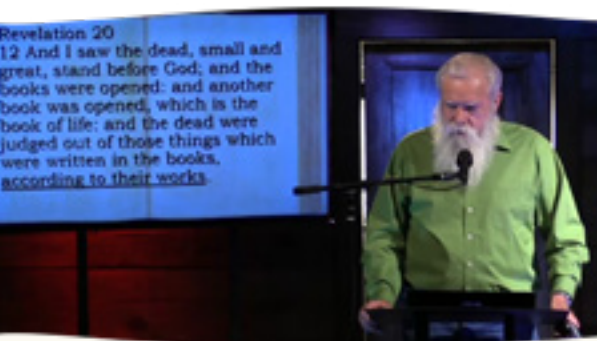
you or you can overcome it. She has fought the good fight.

There is also the physical body. Damage to the brain from accidents, blows, disease, or parasites can cause some really strange issues, including depression.

The colon is commonly referred to as the “second brain” due to its close ties with mental health. Plenty of evidence addresses healing the gut through diet, exercise, and building a healthy microbiome. Many things destroy the natural flora in the gut, especially antibiotics, but also chlorinated water, many medications, prepared foods, and certainly stress. Whether in the brain or the gut, stress can be the root of the disorder. But stress is no longer in the category of the “I can’t help it” philosophy. You can control your reaction to stress. Thanksgiving is key to breaking this stronghold. Even today’s lecturing scientists agree that being thankful is the number one healer of the mind. Isn’t this beautiful? I love hearing a secular scientist say, “Being thankful is key to good mental health.” We knew it all along.

BE-SWEET SYNDROME

In our society, being kind is paramount, often to our detriment.



People from all over the world have watched **The DOOR's** messages for over 100,000 minutes this month! Our most popular series has been “Repentance.”

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Sometimes those who love us best keep us in bondage by trying to cover our emotional weakness with their much sympathy. They are called enablers. Some of the kindest people I have ever known are enablers.

A mother can be an enabler by protecting her child from anyone who might cause emotional stress or by covering for her child's explosive behavior. If the sensitive or angry child grows up and marries someone who continues the enabling, it can lead to a lifetime of defeat. Enablers think of themselves as more forgiving and loving, but every psychologist on earth agrees: it is never a positive thing to have a sweet, gracious, loving enabler on your team.

If you have a loved one who falls into discouraged sadness or a bitter rage due to something someone said or did, don't coddle or talk away their pain; worse, don't blame someone for hurting them. You are setting them up for depression.

THE SKINNY ON DEPRESSION GROOVING RESEARCH

So, this is the skinny: chemicals that cause the sensation of emotions are released in response to our thoughts, whether negative or positive. Every negative emotions such as stress, anger, bitterness, spite, blame, and depression wash over our brain neurons and synapses and slowly eat away at them, changing the actual structure of the brain into the image of our darkest thoughts. We are grooving our own destruction. Parts of the brain DIE due to the chemicals released from our

negative feelings. People actually have less brain function when they mentally continue to visit accusations and hurt. The opposite is also wonderfully true. Thankfulness, joyfulness, and creativity make beautiful pathways and connections that produce in us our own future inclinations and responses. Thoughts of thanksgiving actually make us smarter, sharper, more intellectual, improving every function of the brain.

God says it best in *Philippians 4:8*: "*Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*"

God is good. He is always good. Your joy is his joy. Once you really believe this, miracles will happen.

Finding peace, joy, and thanksgiving comes from seeing who we are in Christ. It is also seeing Christ in others and rejoicing for them. It is choosing to value and focus on what God values. It is acting in obedience to God by singing sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving to the LORD of GLORY.

God created us free to groove our destiny. What will you do with yours?

Since God say, "*For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he,*" we should be thinking lovely thoughts all the time—the more, the better. "*Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ*" (*Ephesians 5:20*). ■



PSALM 107 TO *Heal Depression*

By Erin Harrison

***T*hroughout my years of darkness and shame, I held fast to the words of the Lord in Psalm 107. It was my song.**

It was to these pages in the Bible that I would turn each day when my mind was gripped with depression. I was chained as a prisoner to my past, and some days I could barely catch my breath. I wanted healing so badly.

I was crying out to the Lord in my trouble. Speaking this into my darkened heart each day helped my thoughts to come into the captivity of Christ.

This last week, I can't say why, I was brought back to that dark place

and I had to proclaim Jesus. It is a choice. I won't let the devil steal my joy again. Never again.

The painting you see above was painted when I was about 20 years old, when I came to see that God was dwelling in my heart and driving out the darkness and shame bit by bit. It was in the form of a daisy I picked one day. My center was a glowing sun with the brightness of the glory of God, but each petal

withered and dying. Then I saw myself planted in his life-giving waters. Suddenly there was life in the petals and each one became pure white.

We are free, yet so many are not free. If you battle with the chains of depression, you are in a prison. God's words from Psalm 107 are effectual, living, and able to work healing in you. Think, pray, and consider God's words as you read them and let what he has to say to you bring healing.

His Loving Kindness Endures Forever

(PSALM 107, VERSE BY VERSE)

*O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good:
for his mercy endureth for ever.*

*Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy;*

Have you been redeemed? I remember when I was first redeemed from the hand of the enemy, when I took my first breath as a new creature in Christ. We must remind ourselves who we are in Christ and that we have been redeemed: bought,

brought back from the pit, forgiven, made his, loved, treasured, and a beloved child. We need to say it. We need to speak this aloud. Even when we do not feel redeemed in our mind, we can say it until our mind submits to it.

.....
*And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and
from the west, from the north, and from the south.*

*They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way;
they found no city to dwell in.*

When we are depressed, I tell you, it is a very lonely feeling. That is where the devil wants us. He wants us to withdraw into a solitary way. It makes us an easier target for him

to destroy us. It is like a downward spiral. When I have felt this way, I felt that I was a complete reject and that I could find no place where I could fit in.

.....
Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.

It is a hungry and thirsty feeling.
Your very soul feels like it is dying
inside of you—so hungry for love

and acceptance that you could wither
away. Yet...

.....
*Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble,
and he delivered them out of their distresses.*

I would cry and cry and cry out
to the Lord in my troubles. Even
when I did not see deliverance right

away, he was my hope. Cry unto the
LORD in your trouble and let him
be your hope.

.....
*And he led them forth by the right way,
that they might go to a city of habitation.
Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness,
and for his wonderful works to the children of men!
For he satisfieth the longing soul,
and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.*

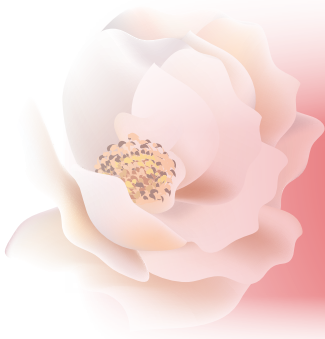
He will lead us by the right way if
we trust him. It took a lifetime to
understand this. I have found many
cities of habitation. Many times, I
saw the hand of the Lord leading
me here and there and with these
people and then other people. You
find a place and you might even feel

like you fit in for a time. He has you
there for a reason and a purpose and
he may close that door. But then you
will finally get to the realization that
home is in heaven. God calls us to be
pilgrims on this earth. He just says,
“Trust me!”

.....
*Such as sit in darkness and in the shadow of death,
being bound in affliction and iron;
Because they rebelled against the words of God,
and contemned the counsel of the most High:
Therefore he brought down their heart with labour;
they fell down, and there was none to help.*

When you are in that moment of
your lowest point, depression makes

you feel as if you are standing in a
shadow with dark clouds looming



WHAT WE SAY in our mind daily,
is where we decide the
quality of our day and of our life!

over your head. I have often felt that dark cloud. Some days I did not even know why I felt so afflicted and so bound. It literally felt like I was in a cloud of death.

I want to say something point blank. We rebel against the Word of God when we believe we are something we are not. If we put ourselves

down and say we are worthless, what a slap in God's face! He calls us beloved, he calls us his children, he calls us redeemed, he calls us by name. If we call ourselves anything other than that, we condemn the counsel of the Most High God who is the true giver of life and truth.

.....

*Then they cried unto the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them out of their distresses.
He brought them out of darkness and the shadow of
death, and brake their bands in sunder.
Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness,
and for his wonderful works to the children of men!
For he hath broken the gates of brass,
and cut the bars of iron in sunder.*

There was a time when I crawled around like a worthless worm on my bedroom floor, reaching my arms to God to save me. He heard me. He brought me out of the darkness and

the feeling of being worthless into his glorious light. The prison I held myself captive in was of my own doing. He broke the bars so I could be free.

.....

*Fools because of their transgression, and because of
their iniquities, are afflicted.
Their soul abhorreth all manner of meat;
and they draw near unto the gates of death.*

So many times I have gotten myself into messes. I get in the middle of things and say more than I should. There are times I regret being around people at all. I have often made life so complicated and gotten so

involved with things that I end up being the bad guy. When my flesh gets in the way, my mouth or actions get involved where I should not, and I eat the fruits of my own calamity. I feel so guilty I could die.



*Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble,
and he saveth them out of their distresses.
He sent his word, and healed them,
and delivered them from their destructions.
Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness,
and for his wonderful works to the children of men!
And let them sacrifice the sacrifices of thanksgiving, and
declare his works with rejoicing.*

Yet I cry unto the LORD, even when I am guilty, even when I do not deserve any sort of comfort. Our God is so good that he answers. Isn't that marvelous grace? It is time for you to realize this, so you can be forgiven and can in turn forgive yourself.

God pours his blessing as we give a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, especially when all seems lost. It is a sacrifice, it doesn't come easy, but we offer up thanksgiving even when we do not feel thankful. It seems so hard and strange to start pouring out our words of gratitude when we feel in a muck of trashy, belittling, and pitiful thoughts. I always start with my eyes. I am not sure why. When I feel down, I say, "Thank you God so much for giving me eyes to see! I am so blessed that I get to look at things that are so beautiful, like my children, colors, nature, clouds in the skies, water, fields, animals, and light."

It is like a snowball effect after that. I go on to praise God for my ears to hear the music, the rustling of leaves in the breeze, the voices of my children, the birds singing, the sound of water rushing over the rocks, and even the sound of food sizzling. That brings me to my nose—it is so incredible to me that I can smell things like food cooking, flowers blooming, a newborn baby, freshly mown hay, and even the smell of fire burning.

When you get on a roll, the sacrifice of thanksgiving gets so much easier because you forget all your troubles and start realizing just how blessed you are. God calls our praise and thanksgiving a sweet fragrance. It just takes a minute to put your mind straight from all the so-called depressing thoughts. It is a choice and a point of perspective.



*They that go down to the sea in ships,
that do business in great waters;
These see the works of the LORD,
and his wonders in the deep.
For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind,
which lifteth up the waves thereof.
They mount up to the heaven,
they go down again to the depths:
their soul is melted because of trouble.
They reel to and fro, and stagger
like a drunken man, and are at their wit's end.*

Sometimes we are caught by storms that knock us down. We melt because of the trouble we are facing. We go to and fro, we waver like the waves of the sea and do not know

what to do next. It is those times that we get to our wits' end when we just can't imagine a good outcome at all. It seems completely impossible in every way. Yet God is there for us...



*Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble,
and he bringeth them out of their distresses.
He maketh the storm a calm,
so that the waves thereof are still.
Then are they glad because they be quiet;
so he bringeth them unto their desired haven.
Oh that men would praise the LORD for his goodness,
and for his wonderful works to the children of men!*

At the tender age of 15, sin and shame had already stripped me bare. I lay upon the floor weeping and groaning within. I had no faith, no reason to live, no one who understood, and I had a plan to end it all. God heard me as I cried out. I saw his glorious light that dark evening. His blood cleansed me. He calmed

the waves of disbelief, despair, and discouragement. I became part of his family—his child. He gave me his comforter, the Holy Spirit. I would never be alone. I then knew him but my mind was still so full of wounds that needed healing.

.....

*Let them exalt him also in the congregation of the people,
and praise him in the assembly of the elders.
He turneth rivers into a wilderness,
and the watersprings into dry ground;
A fruitful land into barrenness,
for the wickedness of them that dwell therein.*

God is just. We need not worry about our adversaries. We don't need to look back at the wicked people; especially those who brought evil upon us as children. God will exact for them their own destruction. God sees everything. They may not receive his curses in our time, but that is because God is storing up his wrath. If you know a person who seems like

they get away with doing evil, feel sorry for them. Bitterness only prolongs your depression and defeat

One thing I realized is that I am only responsible for what I do! When I get some chastisement from the Lord, I see it as a very loving thing. That shows how much he cares. He cares enough to make me grow and transform a little at a time.

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.....

*He turneth the wilderness into a standing water, and
dry ground into watersprings.
And there he maketh the hungry to dwell, that they
may prepare a city for habitation;
And sow the fields, and plant vineyards,
which may yield fruits of increase.
He blesseth them also, so that they are multiplied
greatly; and suffereth not their cattle to decrease.*

God has the power to bless greatly.
We do not deserve it, but he still of-
fers blessings to his children. I know

that I have more than I deserve, and
he has chosen to increase the fruits
of our labors. We are all so blessed.

.....

*Again, they are minished and brought low
through oppression, affliction, and sorrow.
He poureth contempt upon princes, and causeth them
to wander in the wilderness, where there is no way.
Yet setteth he the poor on high from affliction,
and maketh him families like a flock.*

Sometimes it is the poorest of the
world that sing the loudest praises
because they have no one but God to
go to for help and they are full of joy
for the tiniest things.

I know a woman who is sur-
rounded by junk, yet she finds the
beauty of it all. She makes her
home the palace of beauty and joy
within her means. She chooses to

see herself as the richest woman in
all the world, and I can tell you that
she believes it. It may not look like
it to others, but she is rich beyond
anyone's measure. I know she will al-
ways be happy no matter what comes
her way because she has an incor-
ruptible treasure hidden in her heart.
She is an inspiration to me.

.....

*The righteous shall see it, and rejoice:
and all iniquity shall stop her mouth.
Whoso is wise, and will observe these things,
even they shall understand the lovingkindness of the LORD.*

Fill your mind and heart with Psalm 107 by reading it everyday. It is not easy. It will take work. It will take every ounce of grit to push past things. Thank God for all that you have. He will smell the sweet savor of your thanksgiving and he will bless you. A practice like this will seem silly and hard to start but it will be a good habit. You will be training

your mind to think on things above and not on things on the earth. Little by little it will heal your mind. God will speak to you and fill you to overflowing, and you can go on to teach others.

I was there in the blackest pit, and now for these many years I have lived in full light. I pray God shows you his Light. He is there for you. ■

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*"My children love these books!
The rhymes help them remember."
-A Grateful Mama*

From Mr. Steady's Wife



Michael and Debi,

I just finished your book *Created to Be His Help Meet*. I am thankful (my husband too) that 1½ years into our marriage I could read it and be so blessed. I have been so ignorant as to what reverence and submission truly are. I look back and see rebellion, dishonor, irreverence, and control on my part in every little tiff. I didn't feel right about how I was acting, but felt confused and frustrated at exactly what I was doing wrong. The Word of God through your book came alive and rescued me. I want a heavenly marriage, not just a so-so one. I am amazed that as I invest in my husband's interest and make his life my life, there is so much peace.

I am married to a Mr. Steady. He is sweet, loving, patient, and good to me. Is there such a thing as Mrs. Command Lady? If so, that's me. But this command lady is learning that everything about our marriage is better when Mr. Steady is in control. I cringe to think about what kind of man my husband would be in 20 years if I continued to exercise my control and "spiritual superiority" over him. How silly! How sad it must be for God to see wives who long to be obedient to God running over their husbands and thinking that is true obedience. I have several married friends who have more commanding, aggressive husbands. They do devotions together. They sing together, and their husbands make things happen and are well known in our church as solid, godly men. My husband is what you described as the deep water. He loves the Lord, seeks him daily, and enjoys spiritual conversations and Bible studies. But he is just not out there in the middle of the stage, and in the past I have felt like that made him less of a godly man than the others. Shame on me! I will quit comparing him with other men and just honor him where he is and for who he is! Again, I am so thankful that I am not reading this book 20 years from now!

Getting up at six to make his breakfast and pack his lunch, sitting in his beloved tree stand, and keeping quiet as he spends that \$30 that seems so unnecessary to me all come alive with purpose as my attitude has changed toward being a help meet. I even made cornbread, baked beans, and Rice Krispies treats (all of which I don't care for) because I truly want to please him and want him to know that he is the #1 most important person to me. He was delighted...and so was I.

I am looking forward to the rest of our lives together, Lord willing, and to having children and raising them in a peaceful home where Daddy and Mommy are so in love. And to being 80 and still in love!

My little note on an index card had to move over to notebook paper as my heart kept pouring out the beautiful changes in our marriage. Our marriage was good, but oh, it's getting better! My heart is overflowing!

Katie T.

NEW BOOK

CHAPTER 1 EXCERPT

THE WAY IT WAS, BY ONE WHO WAS THERE

THROUGH FAITH WE UNDERSTAND

When I was a young man sixty years ago, we knew from the plain sense of Scripture that there was an indeterminate time gap between Genesis 1:1 and 1:3. Our belief had nothing to do with attempting to accommodate the supposed geological ages of evolution, nor were we attempting to provide time for the apparent age of the fossil record. Our belief was based solely on the text of the Holy Bible. Any professing Christian who believed in Day Age or Theistic Evolution was considered an infidel.

In the 1950s and early 60s, as far as I knew, all Bible believers readily understood that according to the Bible's chronology about 6,000 years ago the Spirit of God moved upon the face of a lifeless planet that was without form and void, and there he commenced a creation week composed of six twenty-four hour days. In those six days God spoke into existence this present ecosystem, including all plants, animals, and humans; and no process of evolution was employed. *"For he spake, and it was done; he commanded,*

≡SURPRISE≡



By Michael Pearl

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*and it stood fast.” Psalm 33:9.
Exodus 20:11 For in six days the
LORD made heaven and earth, the
sea, and all that in them is, and
rested the seventh day: wherefore
the LORD blessed the sabbath day,
and hallowed it.*

Our confidence in "Spoken Word Creation" was not threatened by evolution, and we didn't feel the need to harmonize the biblical record with it. We believed God, and that was enough. We just laughed at organic evolution and wondered how anyone could believe something so preposterous. We were able to win thousands of evolution oriented college students to faith in Christ with the Bible alone. The message of Christ overcame their skepticism with very little attention to evolution.

When an unbeliever resisted the Bible by saying the earth was very old, we agreed and said something like "Of course; God created it a long time ago and placed a race on it that we now know as angels. Some sinned and became devils and some didn't. God cursed the planet, destroying everything on it, and damned the fallen angels. About six thousand years ago God re-created this planet and replenished it with a new race that was not quite as smart or gifted as the first, and he gave us a free

THE EARTH AND UNIVERSE WERE CREATED WITH THE APPEARANCE OF AGE

will so we could do as we pleased, but he offered the option to live in love and faith or to disobey and be damned like the angels that sinned. The fallen cherub entered paradise disguised as a recently created beast of the field. He spoke to Eve and informed her that God was preventing her from attaining special knowledge that would bring great fulfilment. Eve sinned, and then Adam chose to follow her in rebellion, taking his entire posterity with him. And that is why there is so much evil in the world, resulting in death and Hell... *"But God who is rich in mercy..."* And then with ten to twenty minutes of the gospel of Jesus, we had a new brother or sister in Christ. They stopped being evolutionists when they started believing Jesus was their savior, and we never had to debate the age of the earth.

We didn't care what they believed about geology; the issue was the integrity of the gospel narrative, for it had power to win hearts first and then minds. I saw it happen hundreds, maybe thousands of times. In

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God Repented? **Yes**

God Repented for Repenting? **Yes**

Who repents of what?

If a person doesn't repent of sin,
then what?

recent years working in the prisons I have observed the same results. When you give people Jesus they forget the crutch of evolution without ever looking back. Evolution never made sense to them either, not even to their professors. They just assumed it because it was the alternative to a legislating creator.

SEASHELLS AND SAND

In the days before the arrival of Scientific Creationism and The Young Earth Theory, with its "one size fits

all" attempt to answer geology and evolution, we simple believers knew that everything God created, regardless of how long ago, was created with the appearance of age. One second after creation all the trees had annual growth rings varying according to their apparent age. All vegetation was in various stages of development, appearing to be aged, some of it already matured and falling to the ground to be composted, providing nutrients for budding seedlings. The beach was covered with sand, as

**HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED WHY ALL CONSERVATIVE,
BIBLE-BELIEVING BIBLE STUDENTS WHO LOVE TO WIN
SOULS BELIEVE IN THE GAP?**

occurs over a period of time through the grinding action of surf. And old shells were strewn along the beach with hermit crabs peeking out here and there. The sea had the proper amount of salt. Coral reefs were in place teeming with new life representing every stage of development. The moon was cratered and streams showed erosion in the rounded, water washed rocks and sand— and all this just one minute after creation.

THE CHICKEN OR THE EGG?

Remember the repeated question, “Which came first, the chicken or the egg?” A Spoken Word Creationist answers, “Both.” A hen shedding old feathers was created sitting on an egg that was halfway through its incubation cycle, while a young and an old rooster fought over six hens in various stages of maturity, and another hen was leading her twelve little chicks down to the water where there were tadpoles that appeared to be two weeks old swimming around water reeds that had just blossomed and were being pollinated by bees whose hive was already half full of honey. The little chicks pecked at the fallen seeds and partly decomposed

THERE IS NO OTHER ALTERNATIVE FOR ANYONE WHO BELIEVES THERE IS A GOD

fruit until their attention turned to the tempting but allusive tadpoles. It was all in a day's creation—or I should say, six days of creation. It could not be otherwise in this complex, interdependent ecosystem.

GOD MAKES NEW ANTIQUES

We know that the earth and universe were created with the appearance of age. To believe otherwise is to believe in some form of evolution, regardless of how you arrange the pieces. There is no other alternative for anyone who believes there is a God. This interdependent system must be activated fully intact for the individual parts to survive. It is aptly called “irreducible complexity” by the scientists. The greater miracle would be theistic evolution over a great period of time, for in this irreducibly complex system God would have to keep the clock ticking while he waited millions of years to create the parts necessary for it to tick. Why employ an absurdly complicated and

**HE DIDN'T WAIT 100 MILLION YEARS
FOR THE LIGHT TO REACH HIS POSITION**

counterproductive mechanism to achieve creation? Doing it that way, God would use up additional creation energy.

Either God is the instant Spoken Word Creator, or he is a theistic evolutionist who created one piece at a time, supernaturally sustaining the individual parts that depend upon the yet uncreated parts to survive. Nature is a balance of competing forces, from the atom with its positive and negative charges to the ecosystem filled with rival fungi, enzymes, plants, insects, and animals, all dependent upon the mature function of the whole. An enzyme without a balancing enzyme would destroy a living organism. A flower without insects to pollinate it would not survive. Soil without composted matter to nourish its growth would perish.

God is either an organic farmer, creating a system that is self-reliant and self-sustaining or he is a Monsanto Chemical kind of theistic evolutionary creator who creates a little at a time and applies artificial fertilizer to feed the plants until sufficient composed material is generated to sustain them naturally. And he would have to manually pollinate the plants until he decided to create myriads of

insects that depend upon the pollen for survival. Instant Spoken Word Creation with built in age is the only possibility no matter when the earth was created, be it six thousand years ago or six billion years ago. Otherwise God would be exhausted and bored for years trying to keep a partial system functioning. Would an internal combustion motor run with only half of the parts assembled?

So it is nothing new to believe in God creating with the appearance of age. He made new antiques. If they look old, all credit goes to the craftsmanship of the Creator. If you don't think they are old, you will have a hard time proving it. He is just that good at making new things look old.

When God created the stars of heaven, he didn't wait one hundred million years for the light to reach his position. When he said, "Let there be light," there was instant light all the way from the source to all corners of the universe. Light travels at a given speed but it was created with the appearance of having traveled for hundreds of millions of light years. And since all things were created with the appearance of age, there is no way to determine the age of the universe or this ecosystem by the

scientific process. The only thing a scientist can do is determine how old God made it appear to be.

There is abundant documentation that the early Christians and Jews reading the Hebrew, Greek, Aramaic, and Latin texts believed that Genesis 1:1 recorded the creation of the earth and the universe prior to the beginning of the six days of creation. YET, the Young Earth Theory, a modern invention of scientists and pseudo-scientists, falsely asserts that what is now called the Gap Theory "...arose when Christian leaders tried to accommodate the millions of years claimed by scientific research which was done by unsaved geologists, for fossil layers."¹

When Young Earthers assert that "The Gap Theory" began in the 1800s they ignore its historical underpinnings and refer only to the bastardized version. They are denigrating old time Bible believers who believed in a gap long before anyone ever heard of evolution or geology. This is so easily proven that I have a hard time believing they are unaware of the facts.

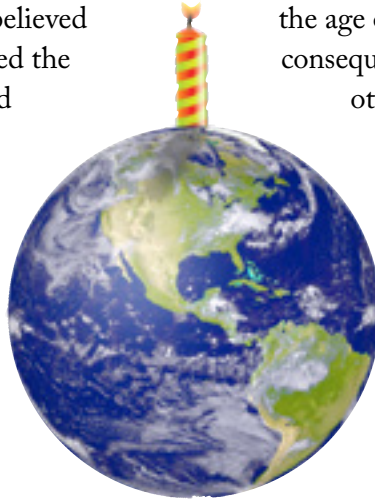
Ever since Moses wrote the book of Genesis there have been astute biblical textualists who understood

that heaven and earth were created in the beginning, before the six days of creation recorded in Genesis 1:3 and following. But it was seldom mentioned just as no one mentioned the Young Earth Theory because the age of the earth was of little consequence to any subject other than the history of Lucifer and the angels. It wasn't until natural science advanced to the point of observing the age of the earth and universe that the timeframe of Genesis became relevant. Then the doctrine of a gap was pulled from dusty old books to be endowed with new content by science worshiping,

academic Christians who were intimidated by organic evolution.

The Creation Science movement has put out false propaganda, leading Christians who don't have a solid biblical or historical foundation to make a judgment not founded in facts. Young Earthers have seduced Christians with their "science," causing them to become judges of the Bible, rejecting long standing traditional doctrine and replacing it with faith in the scientific interpretation of a few.

Disciples of these Young Earth scientists, raised in this era of biblical ignorance, have succumbed to the flood (pun intended) of one-sided propaganda and have become militant



**YOUNG EARTHERS
HAVE SEDUCED
CHRISTIANS WITH
THEIR "SCIENCE"**

1 <http://www.icr.org/article/108/314>

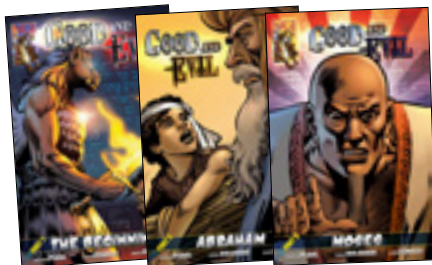


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(HOME SCHOOL)
THINGS

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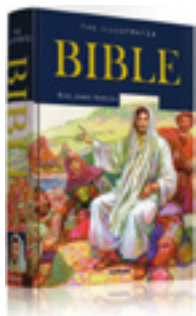
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THE GAP FACT CONTINUED...

in their assertions, denigrating and maligning traditional Bible doctrine that has been the belief of Bible students for more than 2,000 years. They attempt to marginalize those who still hold to traditional belief. Their single issue fervency, holding out the Young Earth Theory as a litmus test for orthodoxy, has evolved into a new ism with cult like intensity and zeal. The time has come to expose it.

**CREATIONISM HAS
BEEN HIJACKED BY
YOUNG EARTHISM.**

**SO THERE IS A NEW ISM
CREATING A SCHISM
AND THE DIVISION
HAS INDUCED A COLLISION
AND MERITED DERISION
THAT WE DID NOT ENVISION
FIFTY YEARS AGO.**

This is a portion of my well researched new book, The Gap Fact and Out of Whack Scientism. For too long the Bible has been denigrated in the name of science. The time has come to provide a Biblical answer to this modern Christian scientism. You will be astounded by the historical facts exposing the false teaching of Scientific Creationism. Don't send your children out into the world claiming the Bible teaches a flat earth or a 6,000 year old universe. We may be rejected for our belief in special creation and our rejection of evolution in any form, but we don't need to solicit ridicule unnecessarily. You have heard the modern side of the gap fact; it is time to hear the historical Biblical truth of the matter.

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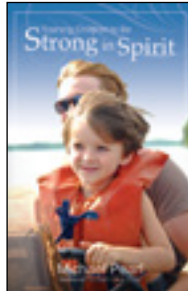
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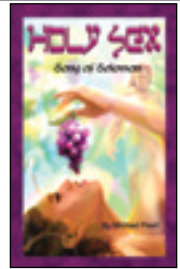


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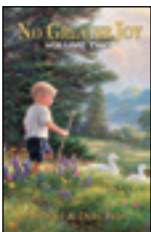
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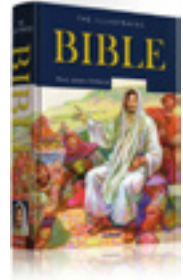
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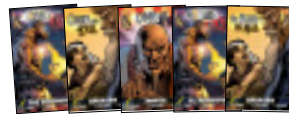
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Making Herbs Simple, Vol. 1

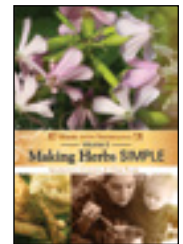
Join Shoshanna and friends as they teach you how to identify and use herbs growing in your own backyard! Make poultices, tinctures, herbal hair treatments, and much more. Includes a companion guidebook. 78 min.



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 \$13.95**

FAMILY DVDs

Movers & Shakers

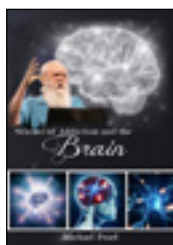
Michael encourages parents to train their children to be tomorrow's movers and shakers. Teach them to become leaders, entrepreneurs, statesmen—framers of tomorrow. 50 min.



6113-75 1 DVD **\$12.95**

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**

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.



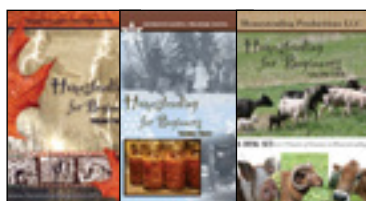
8200-75 1 DVD **\$17.99**

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.



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Homesteading for Beginners 2-4

Journey with this family as they share some basic homesteading skills. Teaches you basics like gardening, raising and butchering chickens, cutting firewood, baking bread, making cheese, making maple syrup, soda bread, vinegar, yogurt, and a variety of other homesteading skills. Excellent step-by-step instructions for the novice homesteader.

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The Joy of Training

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



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BIBLE TOPICS



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