

Activated!



Featuring

Man of Love
The Future Foretold

This is the first of three issues of *Activated!* which are being sent to you free of charge. If you are interested in receiving more issues or ordering some of our inspiring and strengthening Bible-based publications, please write, phone or e-mail us today!

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Personally Speaking

Life sure can be confusing! We search for answers, but often end up with more questions. What are we here for? Why is there so much pain and heartache in the world? Where can we find hope, even when things seem to be going all wrong? Where can we find the strength to face life's challenges? Where can we find joy that lasts?

The answers to all these questions and more are found in a very personal and close relationship with Jesus, our "Man of Love," who promises us not only eternal life in Heaven, but that He will stick by our side until we get there. He has a world of happiness, joy, peace, freedom, contentment and everlasting love waiting for you! All you have to do is connect to the source of this life-changing power by receiving Jesus into your heart. Then He will fill your life with the love and understanding that you have always longed for.

*And this is what **Activated!** is all about – helping you connect to God's power of love so you can experience that love in your daily life. The Bible says that "God is love" (1 John 4:8), and His love has such life-changing power that once you connect to Him you are never the same again!*

*In upcoming issues of **Activated!** you will learn how to tap into God's power through prayer, studying His Word, and putting His principles of love into practice in your daily life. We invite you to turn on the power and connect to His love today!*

Keith Phillips

Keith Phillips
For your *Activated!* family

The Man of Love

Jesus was no ordinary man, nor was He merely a great teacher, rabbi, guru, or even a prophet. In a way, He was all of these, but much *more*. For unlike the other great religious teachers who came before or after Him, Jesus not only spoke *about* love and God, but He *was* love and He *was* the Son of God, so He really knew what He was talking about!

The Bible tells us that “God is a Spirit,” and that “God is love.” (See John 4:24; 1 John 4:8.)¹ God is the Almighty Spirit of love, the Creator of all things. He is the power of the universe, so great and so mighty that He is far above and beyond our limited human understanding.

God is all-powerful, all-knowing and present everywhere.—And that’s just too big a concept for us to grasp! But He loves us very much, and wanted us to be able to know and love Him. So to show us His love and to help us to understand Him, He sent His own Son, Jesus Christ, to Earth in the form of a man, so that we could see through Jesus what God Himself is like. Jesus brought God down to our level.

Think of it! Two thousand years ago God sent His own Son, the very Lord of Heaven, the



Master of the universe, down to Earth to become one of us! He was miraculously conceived in the womb of a humble virgin named Mary, and took on the form of human flesh just like ours. Therefore He was the Son of *Man* as well as the Son of *God*.

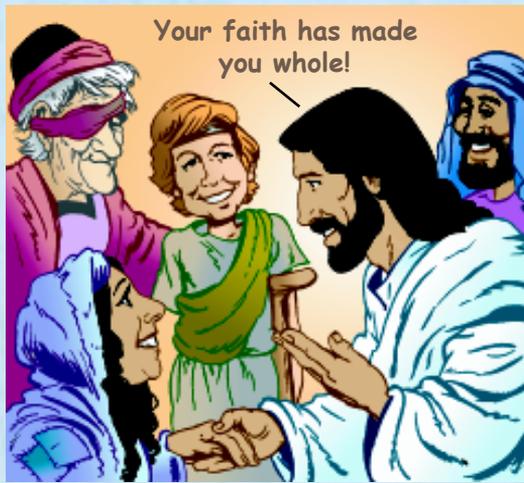
Doing good to all

Jesus not only adapted Himself to our bodily form, but He also conformed to our human ways of life, customs, language, dress, and living so that He might understand us better and be able to communicate with us on the lowly level of our own human understanding. He became a citizen of this world, a member of humanity, a man of flesh, so that He might reach us with His love, prove to us His compassion and concern, and help us understand His message in simple childlike terms that we could grasp.

He came down and adopted the life of a lowly carpenter. Then, at the age of thirty, He began His ministry as a wandering prophet and

¹ These references indicate the location in the Bible where a particular verse or quote may be found. The first part of the reference denotes the “book” (section) of the Bible; the number that follows is the chapter, and the last number the verse itself.

religious teacher. He lived like us, worked like us, had to sleep like us, eat like us, and do everything that we have to do. There were times when He was weary, tired, and footsore, when He was hungry and thirsty, sad and discouraged. He became one of us and, as the Bible says, “was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15).



Jesus spent His time going around everywhere doing good—feeding people who were hungry, healing those who were sick, cheering and comforting those who were sad and brokenhearted. He loved everybody, even those whom everybody else looked down on.

He never had any religious buildings, denominations or formal congregations. He simply went out and met people on the streets, by the seashore, in the market places—wherever He could reach them—and shared His message of love with all who would listen to it. He befriended even the most despised and rejected members of society: tax collectors, drunks, prostitutes, and sinners.

His religion of love was so simple that He said that you must become as a little child to receive it. (See Matthew 18:3.) He never preached or taught any complicated ceremonies or difficult rules. All He did was preach and show *love*. (See Matthew 22:36-40.)

He didn't have to die

But not everyone liked what Jesus said and did. In fact, the Scribes and Pharisees—the rich and powerful religious leaders of His day—became infuriated at Him because His teachings undermined their authority by setting the people free from their traditions and dictatorial control! His self-righteous foes finally forced

the authorities to arrest Him on trumped-up charges, condemn, torture and cruelly execute Him by crucifixion.

Jesus didn't have to die on that cross. He said, “All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on Earth” (Matthew 28:18). He was the Son of God, and all the powers of the universe were at His disposal, at His

command. He told His captors, “You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you by My Father,” and “I could lift My little finger and thousands of angels would immediately deliver Me from your hand.” (See John 19:11; Matthew 26:53.) He could have called on all the forces of Heaven to slaughter His enemies, conquer Rome, take over the world, and force all men to fall down and worship Him there and then! But instead He chose to lay down His life for you and me.

So why *did* He die?

Why would the Lord of the universe, God in the flesh, allow Himself to be captured, falsely accused, tried and condemned, whipped, stripped, and nailed to a cross like a common criminal? The answer is simple: Because He loved you and me!

All of us at times have done wrong and been unloving and unkind to others. The Bible says, “All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). The worst thing about our sins is that they separate us from God, who is absolutely sinless and perfect. In order to bring us to God, Jesus, the sinless Son of God, took the sins of all mankind upon Himself. He took the punishment for our sins, and suffered the horrible pain of death by crucifixion. He

(Continued on page 6.)

Activated! ISSUE 1

Answers to your questions...



Q: *How can I get through to someone who has difficulty opening up and communicating?*

Most people who are very quiet and withdrawn don't really want to be that way. They know they need to be freer and they don't really want to stay behind their walls, but they need somebody to be loving and understanding enough to help them open up to others. If you're interested in people and you love them, then you need to learn how to get them to come out of themselves and communicate.

One way to do this is to ask questions. "You look like you're having a rough day. Is everything all right?" And if they were to say, "No, but it's my problem. I'd rather not talk about it," you could say something like, "I wish you would, because I'd really like to help if I can." With most people, if you show that you're sincerely concerned about them and what they're going through, they'll eventually come out of themselves and be more specific. They do want to, but they just need help. The Bible says, "Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out" (Proverbs 20:5).

Some people are brought up from childhood to believe that it's a sign of weakness to show their emotions, or to talk too much about

their feelings. They're suffering from the classic condition of "the stiff upper lip," and consequently they have never developed the ability to talk meaningfully with another person. They have never learned how to share openly with someone else, and they have difficulty finding the words to say.

Others are fearful of exposing what they feel or think. They don't want to run the risk of being rejected or hurt if someone else disagrees with them.

Others have the attitude that talking won't do any good, so why bother? They may have tried at some point to get through to another person and it didn't work, so they stopped trying altogether.

And some people simply don't believe they have anything to offer others. They don't think that their ideas are worthwhile. They have a low opinion of themselves, and so withhold their comments and personal feelings.

Hang-ups and fears such as these keep us at a shallow level of communication. But love, understanding, patience, and a listening ear can free us from these negative and restrictive attitudes so we can move to deeper, more meaningful levels.

— Maria David

(Continued from page 4.)

died the death of a sinner, that through His sacrifice, we might find forgiveness and freedom from our sins.

Defeating death!

Three days after His lifeless body was buried, something happened that shocked His enemies and proved to all of His followers that He really was the Son of God: He arose from the dead, the victor over death and Hell forever!

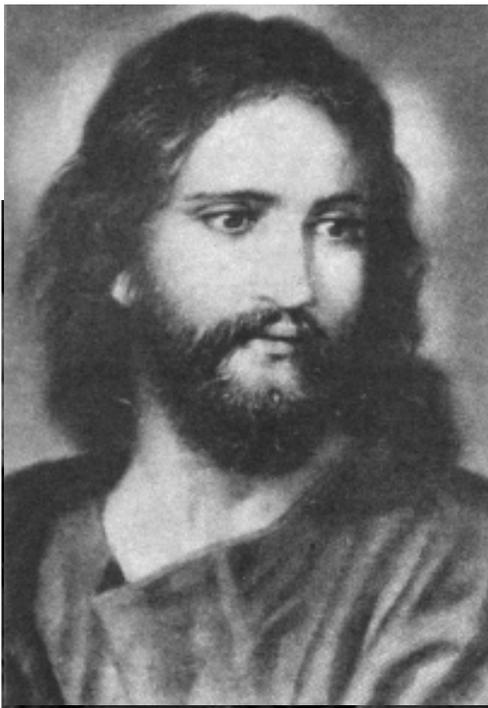
After His resurrection, Jesus personally appeared to literally hundreds of His followers, encouraging, strengthening, and comforting them. He told them that He was going to return to be with His heavenly Father, but that He would always be with them in spirit, living in their hearts forever. He also gave His followers a wonderful promise, saying, "One day I will come again." (See John 14:3.) But when He returns, it will not be as an ordinary man, but as the mighty Ruler and great King that He is. He said, "The Son of Man shall come in the

clouds, with power and great majesty." (See Luke 21:27.)

Meet the Man!

Would you like to find out and know for sure that this Man of love, Jesus Christ, really is the Son of God, the way to salvation and eternal life? All you have to do is believe that Jesus died for you, and accept Him and His free gift of forgiveness for your sins. Then you will be pardoned, brought into fellowship now with God, our heavenly Father, and when you die, you'll live with Him forever in Heaven! You can receive Him and His salvation by simply and sincerely praying a prayer like the one which follows:

Dear Jesus, I believe You are the Son of God and that You died for me and arose from the grave. I need Your love to cleanse me from my mistakes and wrongdoing. I need Your light to drive away all darkness. I need Your peace to fill and satisfy my heart. I now open the door of my heart and I ask You, Jesus, to please come into my life and give me Your free gift of eternal life. Thank You for suffering for all of the wrong I have done, and for hearing my prayer and forgiving me. Amen.



ONE SOLITARY LIFE

—That changed the world!

HERE IS A MAN who was born in an obscure village, the child of a peasant woman. He grew up in another obscure village. He worked in a carpenter shop until He was thirty, and then for three years He was an itinerant preacher.

He never wrote a book. He never held an office. He never owned a home. He never had a family. He never went to college. He never put his foot

Feeding Reading

THE GOSPEL OF JOHN



The four Gospels of the New Testament—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John—tell the beautiful story of Jesus’ life on Earth. If you read the fourth Gospel first, the Gospel of Saint John, you will find that it is one of the easiest to understand, contains the most Words of Jesus, and outlines His loving plan for your life! Following are some of the key passages and verses from the Book of John which deserve special attention as you read and study:

Jesus: The Word of God, the True Light of the World

Chapter 1, verses 1–18
Key verse: John 1:12

What does it mean to be “born again”?

Chapter 3, verses 1–21
Key verse: John 3:16

The woman at the well: “He told me everything I did ...”

Chapter 4, verses 1–30
Key verse: John 4:24

All you can eat!—Jesus Feeds 5,000.

Chapter 6, verses 1–13, 25–40
Key verse: John 6:35

The Good Shepherd

—An all-time favorite chapter!

Chapter 10, verses 1–30
Key verses: John 10:27–28

Lazarus raised from the dead.

—How did it happen?

Chapter 11, verses 1–46
Key verse: John 11:25

Jesus, the True Vine

Chapter 15 (all)
Key verses: John 15:4–5

Jesus’ last prayer, for love and unity

Chapter 17 (all)
Key verse: John 17:23

inside a big city. He never traveled two hundred miles from the place where He was born. He never did one of the things that contemporary society would consider a sign of greatness.

He had no credentials but Himself. He had nothing of this world, only the power of His divine manhood. While still a young man, the tide of popular opinion turned against Him.

His friends ran away. One of them denied Him, another betrayed Him. He was turned over to His enemies. He went through the mockery of a trial.

He was nailed to a cross between two thieves. While He was dying, His executioners gambled for the only piece of property He had on Earth—His

coat. When He was dead He was taken down and laid in a borrowed grave through the pity of a friend.

Nineteen centuries have come and gone, and today He is the centerpiece of the human race, the greatest source of guidance and divine inspiration.

I am far within the mark when I say that all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon this earth as powerfully as that one solitary life!—Jesus!

—James A. Francis

New Beginnings

"I began to see that the things I owned, owned me ..."

By Michael, from Canada

As the son of a successful corporate lawyer, growing up was pleasant for me. Many comforts and opportunities were mine from childhood. In my early teen years my parents sent me to one of the most elite private boarding schools in Canada. Due to my great interest in art, I was then sent to a high school specializing in art and academic studies.

After achieving honors in my studies, I attended the Ontario College of Art, the most prestigious art college in Canada. My artwork and academic achievements won me an entrance scholarship and free tuition. When I entered college, I was placed in the third year of the four-year art course. I was the second student in the history of the college to receive this placement. At the end of my fourth year, I



was given another scholarship and a large sum of money to travel anywhere in the world.

Soon after returning from extensive travels in Europe, I was given a job with the government-sponsored Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC). For four years I was a graphic designer for CBC. I also did freelance illustration work for a top agency in New York and major newspapers, magazines and book publishers, as well as TV work and animation. It was during that time that I became aware of a change taking place in my life.

I had climbed the ladder of success in my field, but from that height I saw life from a different perspective. I began to understand that "one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" (Luke 12:15). My money, sports cars, and trips to Europe were not enough. Something important was

Forsaken by family, found by Jesus!

By Eddie, from Zimbabwe

If children are the youngest casualties of war, I was the youngest of all. My father was a soldier during the guerilla conflicts that overturned social order in Zimbabwe in the 1970s. He survived the war, but did not return to my mother and me. My parents both remarried, and

when I was two years old, my mother sent me to live with my grandmother because my stepfather didn't want me with them.

I didn't meet my father until I was 12, when I set out to look for him. He was happy to meet his son, but my stepmother resented me because I



was his firstborn and would inherit his goods. So after three months, my father asked me to leave and fend for myself.

One of my school teachers decided to take care of me, so I spent the next two years working for him while he paid my school fees. But then he was transferred to another part of Zimbabwe, and at 14 I was

missing; my heart was not satisfied. I began to see that the things I owned, owned me. I decided that I wanted to find the true meaning of life, and I was determined to pay any price to get it. I knew that what really counts is to have love, joy and true happiness in one's heart, but I had no idea where to find those things.

One cold winter night on the downtown streets of Toronto, Canada, I met a total stranger who, in less than an hour, explained passages to me from the Bible that changed my life in the most profound way. That night I asked Jesus into my heart and found the greatest of all riches, the most valuable things in the world—Jesus and the Word of God. My treasure, the Word of God in my heart, is greater than any material wealth, and it can never be taken away from me.

Once “socially unfit,” now helping others!

By Ela, from Poland

When I was 15, I entered the sub-culture of drink and drugs. Being hard to handle and a bad influence on others, I was moved from one high school to another. Weekly visits to a psychiatrist and a stint in a therapeutic center for socially unfit youth didn't help either; instead I felt more discouraged and defeated. I saw no way to change my life for the better, and didn't know how to cope with the world around me. At times a friend and I talked about committing suicide.



After I got out of the therapeutic center, I met a missionary couple from *The Family*. During their two-week stay at my little apartment, they answered my questions by showing me passages in the Bible and other Christian material. With each day that passed, I began to see more clearly what this life is all about. Their loving example and all they shared with me from God's Word started to change everything in my life—I became a Christian! Alcohol, drugs, cigarettes and the so-called “free life” I lived didn't matter anymore. I was so happy to leave it all behind and begin living a life with meaning!

I shared what I had learned with my friends, and many of them prayed to receive Jesus too. Those who did were also delivered from lives of alcohol and drugs, and some of them are even now missionaries too. I feel very privileged and blessed to be able to help change other sad lives by giving them new meaning and joy from the Lord.

left to fend for myself again.

I didn't have enough money to pay my school fees, so I asked the Social Welfare Department for help. Instead, they sent me to a reformatory. Most of the other boys were there because they had committed crimes but were too young to be sent to jail. I spent four years there. I learned mechanics and welding, but I was very

unhappy and didn't have any friends because all the other boys cared about was smoking and stealing and things like that.

Then one day I met Alain and Patricia and their children, missionaries from *The Family* who had begun making weekly visits to the reformatory. After we had talked for a while, they explained how I could ask Jesus to come into my heart,

and I did.

We became friends, and some time later they invited me to live and work with them on one of their projects, helping blind people. I'm now a happy full-time missionary with a new family—Alain and Patricia's! “When my father and my mother forsake me, then the Lord will take care of me” (Psalm 27:10).



The Future Foretold

PART 1

as we move into the next millennium, many of us can't help but wonder what the future holds for us and our planet. Are we on the threshold of a brave New World Order, with peace and plenty for all? Or are we tottering on the brink of unprecedented chaos and disaster?—Or *both*?

This series of articles provides answers that will prepare you for what's ahead.

A remarkable fact about the description of today's world in these articles is that much of it was written thousands of years ago. We will examine specific predictions and prophecies that are two to three thousand years old, which accurately depict conditions and events that have taken place—or are soon to take place—during our lifetime.



When will the end of the world be?



Among the prophecies we will be looking at are predictions describing our modern rapid transportation systems, today's unprecedented increase in world travel, as well as the explosion in knowledge of all kinds.

The effects of global warming, as well as the outbreak of modern killer diseases such as AIDS and cancer, were also foretold.

Awareness of these predictions will give you a new perspective on the radical transformation the world is currently undergoing, as well as prepare you for the cataclysmic changes to come.

THE BIG QUESTION

On a hillside just outside the ancient city of Jerusalem 2,000 years ago, a small band of truth-seekers gathered around their Teacher, a carpenter-turned-preacher known as Jesus of Nazareth. The question they asked Him prompted a response that spans the centuries and zeroes in on the days in which you and I are now living:

And as He sat upon the Mount of Olives, the disciples came unto Him privately, saying, "Tell us, what shall be the sign of Thy coming, and of the end of the world?" (Matthew 24:3, KJV)

What His followers were asking Him about is often referred to as the *Second Coming*, the dramatic personal return of Christ to take over the world and establish the Kingdom of God on Earth. The term "the end of the world" is used here not to signify the end of the planet, but the end of the current unjust and inhumane reign of man.

Jesus answered their question with not only *one* sign that would indicate when "the

end” would be near, but He gave *dozens* of specific indicators to be on the lookout for. Outstanding predictions by a number of other biblical writers help fill in the picture. It is these prophesied “signs” that we will now focus on.

THE EVEN BIGGER ANSWERS

(Jesus speaking:) “You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. ... For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows” (Matthew 24:6-8).

Everyone knows that the world has experienced wars, famines, plagues and earthquakes for millenniums. However, you may be surprised to learn how the severity and frequency of all of these things have radically increased in recent years. Take the first part of this passage, for example:

A WORLD AT WAR

“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars. ... For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.”

The world has never been completely free from the scourge of war, but no period in all of history has witnessed the escalation of wars as has the 20th century. The International Red Cross estimates that over 100 million people have been killed in wars since this century began.

Prior to 1914, war had never been universal, but in both World Wars I and II, global war was waged. In the latter, only 12 small nations of the earth were not militarily or technically involved.

Since World War II, which was supposed to be “the war to end all wars,” there have been over 150 major wars (conflicts resulting in over 1,000 deaths a year), as well as hundreds of smaller conflicts, armed rebellions, and revolutions. Together they have claimed more than 23 million lives.¹

SINCE THE FALL OF THE WALL

The world hoped the fall of the Berlin Wall in November 1989 would not only signify the end of the Cold War between the superpowers, but usher in a new era of global peace. Unfortunately, this has not been the case.

In its annual report, the National Defense Council Foundation, a U.S. research and lobbying organization, counted 71 wars in 1995.²

“ETHNIC CLEANSING” AND TRIBAL TERROR

The Greek word for “nation” originally used in this prophecy, “nation shall rise against nation,” is *ethnos*, which is more accurately translated “a race” or “a tribe.” In other words, Jesus was saying that ethnic groups would rise against each other. This has been tragically fulfilled in recent times.

During this century, the murders perpetrated by nations against their own people have exceeded the deaths caused by wars with rivals outside their borders. Examples include Stalin’s purges, China’s Cultural Revolution, Cambodia’s “killing fields,” the so-called ethnic cleansing in Bosnia, and the horrors of Rwanda. Ours is the century that coined the term “genocide.”³

Although the outlook may appear bleak, the day is soon coming when God Himself will intervene in this violent world and war shall be forever abolished. (See Isaiah 2:4.)

(Don’t miss more on the future in upcoming *Activated!* issues, featuring amazing predictions from the Bible about the events of our times, including the AIDS virus, a dramatic increase in travel and scientific knowledge, and a One-World cashless society!)

1. AP, 10 Nov 1993

2. “Group: 71 Wars Exist Worldwide,” AP, 2 Jan 96

3. Levinson, Arlene. “20th Century Awash in Blood,” AP, 16 Sep 95

Excerpted from *The Future Foretold*, by Michael Roy

When Jesus climbed the mountain, He left the multitude behind. “And seeing the multitudes, He [Jesus] went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him” (Matthew 5:1). Mountain peaks are never crowded. Why? Because it’s hard work getting there. Not very many people desire to climb mountains.



There is more light on the mountain. Long after the valley is in darkness, you can still see the sun. The valley is almost always dark—full of people and things, but usually in darkness. The mountain is windy and cold, but thrilling.

If you’re going to climb a mountain, you have to have the feeling that it’s worth dying for! Any mountain—the mountain of this life, the mountain of accomplishment, the mountain of obstacles, of difficulty—has to be worth braving wind and cold and storm, symbolic of adversities.

Only pioneers climb mountains—people who want to do something that few have ever done before, people who want to get above the multitude and go beyond what has already been accomplished. Pioneers must have vision—vision to see what no one else can see; faith—faith to believe things no one else believes; initiative—initiative to be the first one to try it; courage—the guts to see it through!

On the mountain you feel like you’re living in eternity, whereas down below they’re living in time. You see the world in its proper perspective, with range after range to be conquered, and a world beyond the vision and

horizon of normal men. You see distant peaks yet to be climbed, distant valleys yet to be crossed. You see things that the men in the valleys can never see, or even comprehend.

In the valley, people get so caught up in the multitude and the little make-believe world of materialism that they can’t see anything but time and creatures of time and things of time, which are soon to pass away. But if you thrust your head above the multitude, you become like a mountain in

**Beaten paths are for
beaten men, but
mountain peaks are for
the mighty pioneers!**

their midst, and they will resent and resist and fight you because they can’t understand you and don’t want you.

They don’t even want to know that there are mountains! They don’t want others to hear there are mountains, nor to have a breath of fresh air from those crystal peaks. They want to keep everyone shut in down in the valley, in the mud and mire. They don’t want it to be known that there is any other place to go than the valley, and they will do everything they can to discourage you from climbing the mountain.

Man dominates the valley, but only God dominates the mountain, and the men living

on the mountains know this. But men living in the valleys think they are God, because they

There is more light on the mountain.

dominate themselves. They have become so secure that they think they don't need God. They have forgotten there is any God, for they can't see the sky any longer.

Beaten paths are for beaten men, but mountain peaks are for the mighty pioneers.

What do you hear on the mountain? Things that are going to echo around the world. What do you hear in the stillness? Whispers that are going to change the course of history! The greatest laws ever given to man, whereby most of the world is still ruled, were given to one man alone on a mountain. Moses came down from a mountain with the Ten Commandments, and the Hebrew nation was never the same, nor was the world!

The greatest sermon ever preached, the "Sermon on the Mount," was given to a handful of mountain men by the greatest mountaineer of all, Jesus, who finally climbed His last mountain—Mount Calvary, Golgotha—and died alone for the sins of the world. That was a mountain that only He could climb for you and me, but He made it!

After Jesus' disciples heard His "Sermon on the Mount," they came

down and changed the world. They were never the same. What changed them that changed the world? They heard the voice of God teaching them things that were completely contrary to what was being said in the valley! In the valley they were saying, "Blessed are the Romans—the proud and the powerful. Look what they've done! They've conquered the whole world!" But on the Mount, Jesus was saying just the opposite:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit [the humble], for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven" (Matthew 5:3). Simple little illiterate fishermen were listening to a carpenter tell them something that would make them greater rulers than the Caesars of Rome!

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matthew 5:6). The people on the mountain hunger and thirst for the truth, and only God can satisfy them. The people down in the valley can't see any further than the end of their nose and are satisfied with themselves

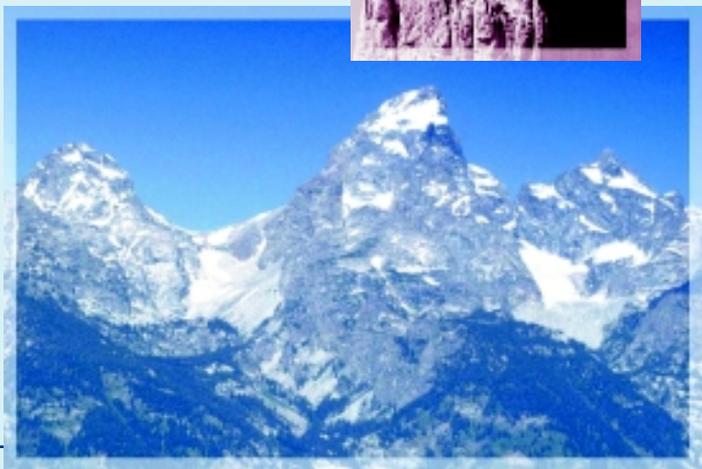
and are *full*—and He sends them away empty. (See Luke 1:53.)

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God" (Matthew 5:8). There's no smog on the mountain.

The air is pure. The water is pure. The people are pure in heart. They see God.

Life is on the mountain! Get out of the valley! "Flee as a bird to your mountain" (Psalm 11:1).

(The above was excerpted from David Brandt Berg's article by the same title.)



dave and Anne met at a travel agency. Dave was buying an airline ticket from Anne, when they got into a conversation that went something like this....

ANNE: I'm sorry this is taking so long. I'm so tired I can hardly think! I don't know which is worse—the illness I'm just getting over, or the medication I've been taking for it! It's going to be a long day!

DAVE: I know what you mean about the medicine. Personally, I do a lot better by simply keeping God's health guidelines in the Bible. Then I can have faith that God will either keep me healthy or heal me if I do get sick.

ANNE: Really? That sounds nice, but how can I have faith in God when I don't even know if there *is* a God?

DAVE: If you want proof of God's existence, just look around. It reminds me of the answer the world-renowned nuclear physicist Robert Millikan gave a skeptic who asked him how a man of science could believe in God: "Just as behind every watch there had to be a watchmaker, so behind the intricate precision and timing of this great universe there had to be a great Creator or Designer!"

ANNE: Well then, how do we know what God looks like? Nobody's ever seen Him.

DAVE: We *don't* know what God looks like, because He's a Spirit. He's not some old bearded gentleman way off somewhere, but He is the basic power and guiding light of the universe.—The all-powerful, all-knowing Spirit that pervades all things. He is everywhere!

ANNE: Well, if there is a God, then

why is there so much suffering and pain in the world? Why did God allow Hitler and all sorts of other atrocities? Why doesn't He put a stop to that, if He's in control?

DAVE: First of all, God doesn't do those things, man does. And if God didn't allow evil men to carry out their evil plans, then He'd have to put a stop to man's *freedom of choice*,



which is an important part of His great design. Man was put here to make a choice between good and evil, to do right or wrong. And in the process God gives us the opportunity to learn the benefits of loving Him and keeping the loving rules He has made for our own good.

ANNE: So, if there is a God, where did He come from? Who made Him, and when and where and how long has He been in existence?

DAVE: If you knew the answer to that question, then you'd be God, wouldn't you? The Bible simply says that God has always been: He is the great "I Am" who lives in the Eternal Now, where there is no past nor future and "time shall be no more." Now let me ask you a question. How much do you know about electricity?

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ANNE: Not much.

DAVE: Well, you're not alone. Not even scientists understand it completely. But does that stop you from using electricity?

ANNE: Of course not!

DAVE: You use it even though you don't understand it?

ANNE: Yes, I just turn on the switch.

DAVE: My point exactly. You flip the switch and make the connection, and it works! You benefit from electricity, even though you don't understand it fully. All you know is, it works! You make contact with the power of electricity, and it does the work for you. And that's how it is with God. We don't know where He came from or how He got here, we simply know He does exist and He is here, ever-present, all-knowing and all-powerful—omnipresent, omniscient and omnipotent. God exists, you may be sure, just like electricity exists, and both of these great powers can do us a great deal of good, even if we don't fully comprehend them. We

can benefit from "turning on the switch" and making contact with God.

ANNE: Benefit from God?

DAVE: Yes! You just need to make personal contact with the power of God and He will do the work of bringing joy, health and happiness to your everyday life. He'll also give you faith, comfort and peace of mind.

ANNE: Just how do I make this contact?

DAVE: You can contact His power through prayer, a spiritual seeking of contact with His Spirit. Just as you flip the switch of your radio and tune in to a certain frequency, so you can make contact with God. And if you do, He will speak to you, both through His written Word and directly to your heart and mind when you pray.

ANNE: So you're saying that I don't have to understand God in order to believe in Him?

DAVE: You got it! We only have to make the connection that lets God's power into our daily lives. All we have to do is reach out our hand of faith and flip the switch of decision which makes contact and starts the flow of God's power into our lives to light, guide, warm, feed, provide, protect, work for us, and give us pleasure. Just try Him! You don't have to know where He came from, just meet Him!

ANNE: Okay! I can't lose by trying, can I?

DAVE: That's right! Don't try to figure Him out. Just let Him in! Try Him!—You'll love Him! He works, and that's all you need to know!

Prayer for the Day

Dear Jesus ...

Sometimes when I feel weak, when I feel low, when I feel muddled and lack words to express what's on my heart, I bring a silent prayer to You. I know You understand, because You lift my would-be worries and fears, and You kiss away my tears.

TO YOU, WITH LOVE!

Dear One,

You are My child and I love you. It's just that simple. No matter what you've done or haven't done, I love you!

You are on Earth, living your life, trying to find out what's the best thing to do and how to do it—how to live, how to survive—and it is a struggle. I know this and I understand, for this is the struggle of life. But all of this can be made easier if you will just spiritually connect to Me.

For though your life carries on and you age and then die, your spirit never ages. It never dies. The real you, the you that now dwells within the confines of your body, will live forever.

This is why the material things of this world are not the things to strive for, because one day you must leave them behind. The only things that truly matter are those of the spirit: love, kindness, mercy, understanding, giving.

So do good. Love your family. Love your friends. Love your neighbors. Love those you meet. Show mercy, kindness, and compassion. By showing love, you show Me to others, for I, God, am Love.

With love everlasting,
Your Heavenly Father