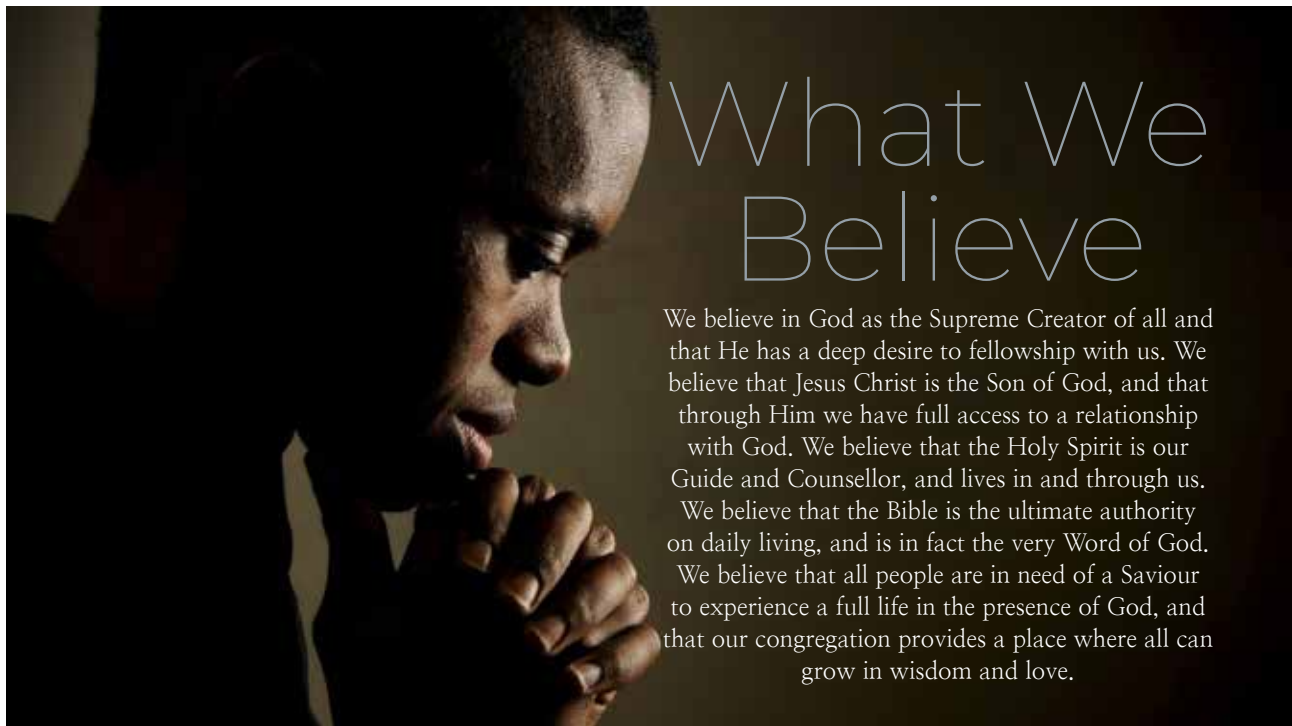


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What We Believe

We believe in God as the Supreme Creator of all and that He has a deep desire to fellowship with us. We believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, and that through Him we have full access to a relationship with God. We believe that the Holy Spirit is our Guide and Counsellor, and lives in and through us. We believe that the Bible is the ultimate authority on daily living, and is in fact the very Word of God. We believe that all people are in need of a Saviour to experience a full life in the presence of God, and that our congregation provides a place where all can grow in wisdom and love.

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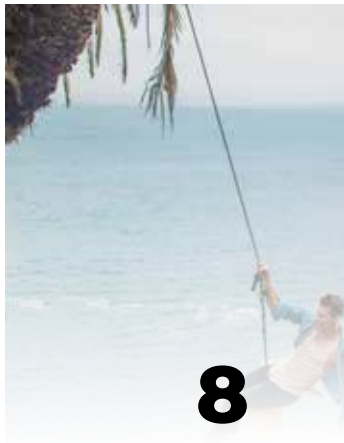
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EDITORIAL

Waldo Malan

We live in a technological age where advances are speeding up exponentially. Technology impacts all our lives in every area, and unless you are living on a totally isolated island in a yet-to-be-discovered part of earth, our perception of the world changes with it. We laugh about our parents telling us stories such as, “When I was young I walked to school barefoot in the snow for ten miles...” or some such version. Now, as I am rapidly approaching the 60’s, I find myself telling my children similar stories! Mine goes something like this: “When I was your age we used to play outside because there was no TV, and we shared a telephone line with five other people... we wrote letters to our friends and waited six weeks for a reply!” Sound familiar?

Now I am surrounded by the ease (and often curse) of emails, cell phones, iPads, internet, GPS and on-board computer in my car, and the list goes on. Just the other day my car developed a disease where it wouldn’t start. In days gone by (about 10 years ago) I would simply push the car down an incline, pop the clutch and smile as it sputtered to life. Not so any more! It had to get taken in to a “specialist” (see huge dollar signs) to have its software upgraded and so to eliminate the “bug” or “virus”, then have the computer rebooted and now when I turn the key (a weird description for an oblong piece of plastic that doesn’t look like a key at all) the car starts.

I am leaning towards descriptions of my car experiences since our modes of transport have seen massive changes and advances over time, and it seems to have increased in advances since we entered the techno-age. Guido da Vigevano invented a windmill type drive-to-gears-to-wheels car in 1335. Around 400 years later 1712 Thomas Newcomen invented the steam engine; Etienne Lenoir patented the first practical gas engine in Paris in 1860; In 1885 Gottlieb Daimler built a wooden motorcycle that used an Otto combustible engine. By February 1893 the car built by Charles and Frank Duryea was the first gasoline-powered car in America; Henry Ford had an engine running by 1893 but it was 1896 before he built his first car. Since then developments happened at an increased speed, and with the introduction of motor races many new technologies have been included into production cars such as ESP, ABS, power-steering and more.

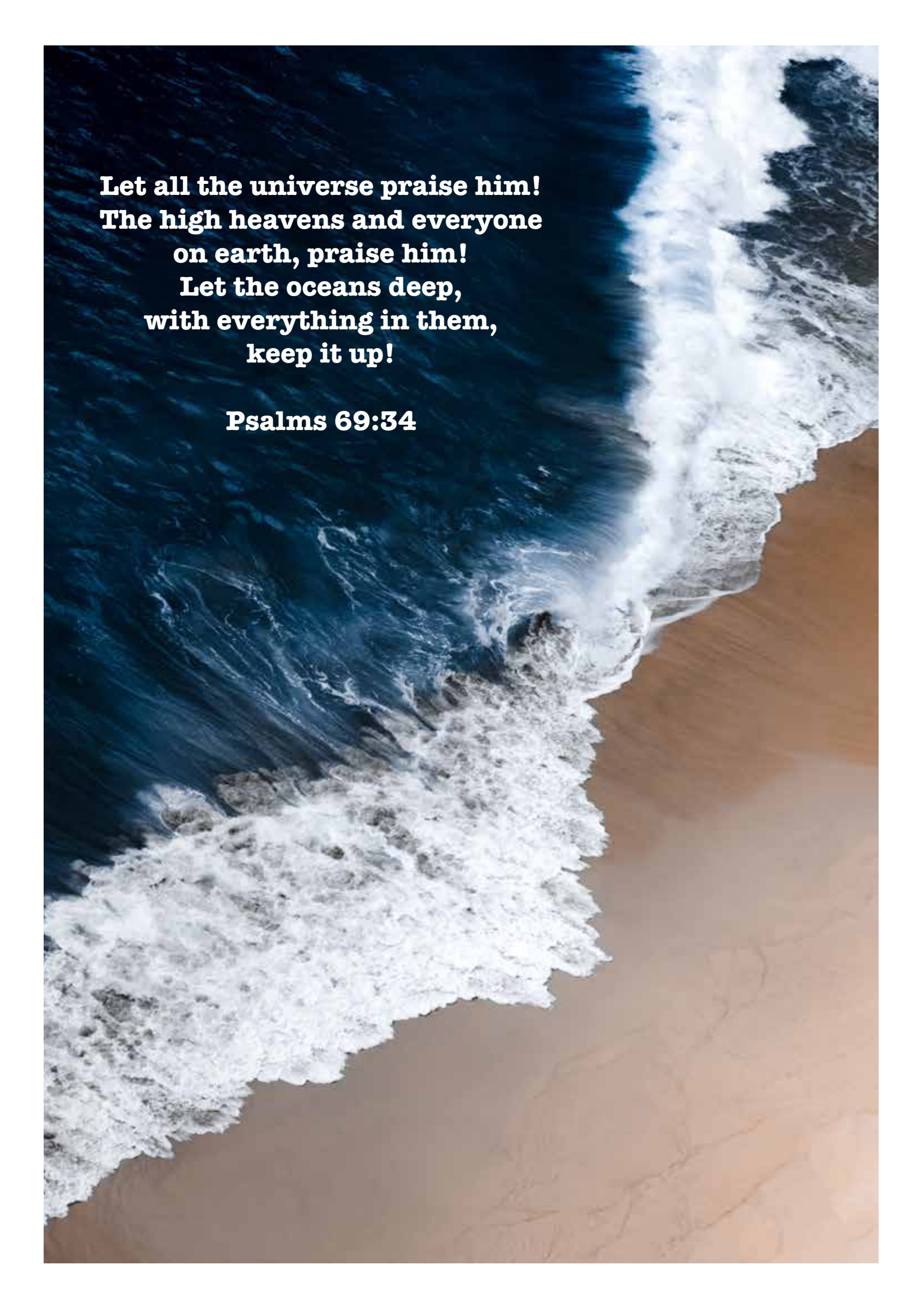
The Wright brothers made history in 1903 with their first flight and today we have aeroplanes such as the A380 carrying 853 passengers at one time! We have nuclear submarines, space shuttles, hot-air balloons, bicycles and all other modes of transport to carry us from place to place.



Provided we have a positive cash flow we can travel in style and luxury. For some people the mode in which they choose to transport themselves has become a god, and something of a status symbol.

On a more philosophical level, transport really speaks about people, animals or things being relocated; going from A to B in other words. If the intention is to move from A to B then the method of getting there becomes irrelevant as long as one arrives! If our transportation from A to B is going to include people in the process, then we would have to pay closer attention to the method. We are relocated nearly on a daily rate in the lives we live – and here I’m not speaking about physical transportation. I am thinking more of a change in attitude or a change of heart. I am speaking about us having our perceptions altered, changed or challenged, and when that happens, how we deal with it. Paul encouraged us to have our minds renewed daily, which essentially speaks about us developing the ability to handle positive change despite sometimes having to endure a painful transition. In light of Paul’s encouragement not only is the relocation important, but so is the method or mode.

So whether we speak about physical, emotional, or spiritual transport, we are impacted daily.

An aerial photograph of a beach. The ocean is a deep, dark blue, with white, frothy waves crashing onto the shore. The sand is a light brown color, and the water is turbulent as it meets the beach. The text is overlaid on the upper left portion of the image.

**Let all the universe praise him!
The high heavens and everyone
on earth, praise him!
Let the oceans deep,
with everything in them,
keep it up!**

Psalms 69:34

LIVING IN THE REALM OF THE SUPERNATURAL

André & Jenny Roebert

“In the beginning, man's spirit was the dominant force in the world. When he sinned, his mind became dominant. Sin dethroned the spirit and crowned the intellect. But grace is restoring the spirit to its place of dominion. When man comes to realize this, he will live in the realm of the supernatural without effort.” (John G. Lake, *The Power of the Name*.)

Can you imagine living in the realm of the supernatural without effort? It's not as far off as you might think. According to the Word of God, at the point of our salvation we are born of the Spirit (John 3:5) and have received the Holy Spirit as our gift from God. Acts 2:38 says, *“Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit”*.

Then Galatians 5:25 says, *“If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit”*. This is what John G. Lake was referring to when he said we can have our spirits dominate our lives. The problem comes with the battle of wills between our flesh, the carnal nature, which is governed by our natural, human reasoning; and our re-born spirit nature, which is governed by God's Spirit living in us. Whichever one we give attention to dominates our lives with pretty significant results. John 6:63 says, *“It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing”*.

Having said that, we can start rejoicing right now because Jesus dealt with the sin issue on the cross and broke its power over us! That means we are free to walk and live by the Spirit of God and have the grace to not live according to the flesh and all it dictates! So, to live in the realm of the supernatural, we make walking in the Spirit our conscious decision each day!

Romans 8:4-8 says, *“...live and move not in the ways of the flesh but in the ways of the Spirit [our lives governed not by the standards and according to the dictates of the flesh, but controlled by the Holy Spirit]. For those who are according to the flesh and are controlled by its unholy desires set their minds on and pursue those things which gratify the flesh, but those who are according to the Spirit and are controlled by the desires of the Spirit set their minds on and seek those things which gratify the [Holy] Spirit. Now the mind of the flesh [which is sense and reason without the Holy Spirit] is death [death that comprises all the miseries arising from sin, both here and hereafter]. But the mind of the [Holy] Spirit is life and [soul] peace [both now and forever]. [That is] because the mind of the flesh [with its carnal thoughts and purposes] is hostile to God, for it does not submit itself to God's Law; indeed it cannot. So then those who are living the life of the flesh [catering to the appetites and impulses of their carnal nature] cannot please or satisfy God, or be acceptable to Him.”*

The Word couldn't be plainer. For the victorious child of God, who desires to live in the realm of the supernatural, a lifestyle of sin is out and a life controlled by the Holy Spirit is in! The question is: how do

we do this?

Well, if you look back at verse 6, it specifically speaks about the mind of the flesh and the mind of the Holy Spirit. This tells us there are two very distinct ways of thinking and reasoning in this life; both have rather drastic results. Thinking and reasoning without the influence of the Holy Spirit leads to sin, which always progresses to misery and death; while thinking under the influence of the Holy Spirit progresses to life and peace that lasts for eternity.

OK, so now that we understand that correct thinking is the way to live controlled by the Holy Spirit, the next question is: how do we correct our wrong way of thinking and keep it under the influence of the Holy Spirit?

Here are four simple steps to having victory over our thoughts, where they are dominated by the influence of the Holy Spirit and not our flesh.

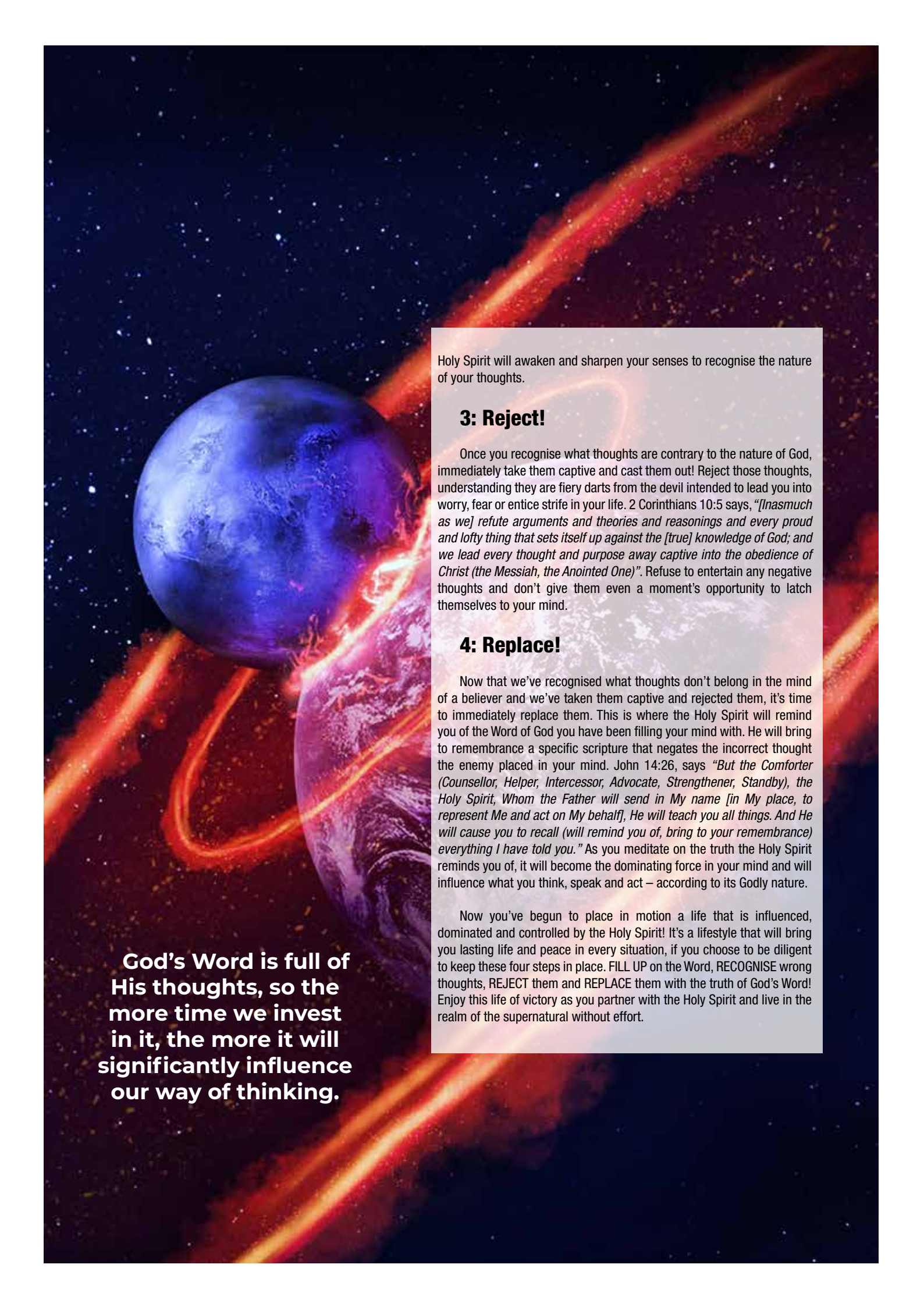
1: Fill Up!

Fill your mind with the Word of God. God's Word is full of His thoughts, so the more time we invest in it, the more it will significantly influence our way of thinking. This process of influence is called renewing our minds. Romans 12:1-2 says that it's something we are expected to do as children of God.

Now here's the beauty of this truth: whatever we give our attention to become our desire; and our desires pave the way for our destinies. Did you know that whatever your heart is engaged in, attaches you to it and it becomes your destiny? Matthew 6:21 says, *“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”* Your treasure is something you regard as being highly valuable. It's something you're passionate about; that one thing that makes you feel the most alive and you simply can't imagine being without. When we fill our minds with God's Word, by the Holy Spirit enlightening it to us, we soon discover that it is alive and full of glorious treasures and we just can't get enough of it! That's why Colossians 3:16 says, *“Let the word have its home [in your hearts and minds] and dwell in you in [all its] richness...”* Trust the Holy Spirit to lead and teach you as you delight in God's Word and fill your mind with it.

2: Recognise!

Recognise where your thoughts come from. When the Word of God has become our desire and delight, and we are constantly feeding our hearts and minds on it, we will recognise the origin of every thought that enters our minds. You see all thoughts are either faith-based or fear-based. Since God's Word produces faith, peace and life, any thought that is contrary to that will stick out like a sore thumb in your mind. Even if it sounds right or reasonable, its nature will be opposite to what you have been renewing your mind to. The



**God's Word is full of
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Holy Spirit will awaken and sharpen your senses to recognise the nature of your thoughts.

3: Reject!

Once you recognise what thoughts are contrary to the nature of God, immediately take them captive and cast them out! Reject those thoughts, understanding they are fiery darts from the devil intended to lead you into worry, fear or entice strife in your life. 2 Corinthians 10:5 says, "*[Inasmuch as we] refute arguments and theories and reasonings and every proud and lofty thing that sets itself up against the [true] knowledge of God; and we lead every thought and purpose away captive into the obedience of Christ (the Messiah, the Anointed One)*". Refuse to entertain any negative thoughts and don't give them even a moment's opportunity to latch themselves to your mind.

4: Replace!

Now that we've recognised what thoughts don't belong in the mind of a believer and we've taken them captive and rejected them, it's time to immediately replace them. This is where the Holy Spirit will remind you of the Word of God you have been filling your mind with. He will bring to remembrance a specific scripture that negates the incorrect thought the enemy placed in your mind. John 14:26, says "*But the Comforter (Counsellor, Helper, Intercessor, Advocate, Strengtheners, Standby), the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name [in My place, to represent Me and act on My behalf], He will teach you all things. And He will cause you to recall (will remind you of, bring to your remembrance) everything I have told you.*" As you meditate on the truth the Holy Spirit reminds you of, it will become the dominating force in your mind and will influence what you think, speak and act – according to its Godly nature.

Now you've begun to place in motion a life that is influenced, dominated and controlled by the Holy Spirit! It's a lifestyle that will bring you lasting life and peace in every situation, if you choose to be diligent to keep these four steps in place. FILL UP on the Word, RECOGNISE wrong thoughts, REJECT them and REPLACE them with the truth of God's Word! Enjoy this life of victory as you partner with the Holy Spirit and live in the realm of the supernatural without effort.

JUST A LITTLE COURAGE

Joyce Meyer

We've all heard that a little faith, even as small as a mustard seed, can accomplish great things. JOYCE MEYER shares how a little courage also goes a long way.

Have you ever decided to stay in a bad situation simply because you were afraid to move?

I can remember my knees feeling so weak when God was trying to take me to a new level in my ministry. In fact, it was very tempting to stay where I was at the time because I was comfortable. But somehow I knew that if I gave in to my fear, I would regret it.

Too often, we decide to wait for our fears to subside before we will do what God is asking us to do. Unfortunately, our fears may never subside—so instead of waiting, we need to learn how to be courageous.

My husband, Dave, defines courage as the willingness to risk who you are and what you have for what you want and who you want to be. It's a definition that has helped me face my fears to become the person I am today.

Whatever difficulties you're facing right now, "I will not fear," is the attitude you need to embrace. I want you to understand that you've got what it takes to make it through every challenge that comes your way.

It Is What It Is, So Don't Worry

God gave me a test recently, and it was a pretty major one. My doctors thought they'd found something in me that would have been a serious health problem, and even though I was going through a stressful time, I knew God wanted me to keep quiet about it.

So here I am, waiting for test results, doing mental gymnastics for about two weeks. And I just kept saying to myself, "It is what it is. Whatever I need to deal with, God will help me deal with it, so I'm just going to take this thing one day at a time."

Thankfully, the test results came back showing nothing wrong. But what if something was wrong? You know, in so many of the difficult situations we face, what God wants from us is to simply trust in His plan and keep on going day by day, not giving up.

You see, there are some things we just can't

change in life. But we can always pray and study and depend on the Holy Spirit to change what's happening inside us. You and I can have peace in the midst of all our trials and tragedies.

It Takes Courage to Wait on God

God is never late in answering our prayers, but He's generally not early and He doesn't work on our timetable. Actually, He's really good at arriving at our "midnight hour." But the whole reason for that is to keep stretching our faith—building a solid foundation for our trust in Him.

Philippians 4:6 says, *"Do not fret or have any anxiety about anything, but in every circumstance and in everything, by prayer and petition (definite requests), with thanksgiving, continue to make your wants known to God."*

Sometimes you have to press in to an attitude of praise and thanksgiving. And it takes a lot of faith and patience, but you can trust that God has your future in His hands.

You can stay happy and not have your way. You can have peace and not understand what God's doing in your life or why you're going through a time of difficulty.

Psalms 37 is a great place to go in the Bible when you need to draw courage from God. I encourage you to read it through in its entirety.

Verses 39-40 say, *"But the salvation of the [consistently] righteous is of the Lord; He is their Refuge and secure Stronghold in the time of trouble. And the Lord helps them and delivers them; He delivers them from the wicked and saves them, because they trust and take refuge in Him."*

No matter what your life looks like at any given moment—take courage. God is still God, He is most assuredly with you, and He will help you do whatever you need to do.



HANDING OVER

Angus Buchan

If you have built up a ministry and God has told you to hand over to a younger man, it is only by His grace that we can do it, it is not a natural thing for us to do. When your son or daughter comes of age and you have to release them, it can be quite traumatic and painful at times. If you have a daughter that you really love, sir, and a young man comes into her life (and he will never be good enough for her because there is nobody alive who is good enough for your daughter), you have to release her into his life. After the wedding day she will no longer be primarily your daughter, she will be someone else's wife and then secondly, she will be your daughter. It can be quite a traumatic time requiring a completely different mindset, it is what we have been praying and asking God for, but it can be quite tough when it happens.

I think of a man with some seed in his outstretched hand. A wild bird comes, he admires the bird and keeps his hand flat and the bird flies away and invariably will bring back some of its friends. However, if he tries to contain and possess that bird, when he closes his hand on it, it will eventually die and he will end up with nothing.

Many times I have seen farmers who have sons but will never quite release the farm into their son's hands. After a season, the sons become frustrated and they leave and go overseas to make their own way. The farmer later gets too old and too tired to farm properly and the farm starts to implode and fall apart and eventually in desperation he sells the farm and moves into town. If only he had given his sons a chance when the time was right and let them take over, and burn their fingers and make mistakes (we always have to 'pay school fees' when we learn), the farmer might then still be on the farm, enjoying the farm and his sons.

There is such a fine line because handing over is only half the task; the other half is to receive. It is like the proverbial Olympic relay runner, once he has run his race he has to pass the baton on to the next man so that he can finish the race. That changeover is absolutely critical, that is why they practice it so much because if he drops the baton, then he is out.

The blueprint that I love so much and one which I am endeavouring to apply in my own life, is the blueprint of Jesus himself. The Master called twelve men to be His disciples, not twelve famous heroes or men of stature, but twelve ordinary men. These men walked with the Lord and watched Him for a season. The Lord then walked with them for a season and then He left them on their own. He said in His word that it was expedient for them that He leave and go back to His Father so that they could carry on the work. There comes a time in a man's life when you can't actually teach him anymore and you have to release him. That is where prayer plays such a very important role, you trust God that he will carry on the momentum or legacy or whatever it might be, whether it is family, work or ministry, we have to hand over so that it can grow. Jesus knew that as long as he was on earth, the disciples would not fulfil their own mandate but when the Lord went home to be with His Father then the disciples were imbued from on high with the power of the Holy Spirit and they proceeded to turn the world upside down.

I can really relate to this in terms of the Mighty Men phenomena



that has swept through our land. In 2010 I felt the Lord lay very strongly on my heart that I needed to make MMC 2010 the last one at Shalom. This decision was extremely hard because it was succeeding so well and we had literally started from a vision. Yet, by me saying that 2010 was going to be the last one and telling the men on the final day that they needed to go out and do likewise, we have seen what has happened. This year I have had the privilege of attending no less than three Mighty Men Conferences in the Western Cape, Limpopo and in the heart of the Karoo. There are also many other meetings that have been taking place throughout the country and overseas and that is only because we handed over and God honoured that.

What I want to really stress and I have experienced this in my own life, is that every time you hand something over to God, He gives you something back. You don't do it for that reason, you hand it over in obedience because He has told you to, but He never leaves you empty handed, He always gives you something back and it is usually twice as big as what you gave away. I am busier now than I ever was when I was doing the MMC. God has opened huge doors for me through the media, through television programs, through Facebook, through writing columns and through movies that are being made. I am more excited now than I have ever been in my life!

Don't be afraid to hand over, don't hand over too soon and don't hand over too late. Spend time with God and He will show you the exact time when you need to hand over. When you hand over there must be no strings attached. When I handed over the farms to our boys and the church to a spiritual son of mine there were no strings attached. They could do anything they liked with the farms or the ministry. They have taken them to the next level, the farms are exploding, the ministry is going very well and I have more work to do now than I have ever had in my entire life. That is because of God's goodness. He says in Matthew 6:33, *'Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these other things will be added unto you'*. May God bless you as you continue to be obedient to the call that He has put on your life.



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THOUGHTS ON SHARING THE GOSPEL

Waldo Malan

We have this great commission from Christ to go into the whole world and share the Gospel. Before we can respond to the commission, we have to respond to Christ Himself, since the commission will just be another job if not motivated by a personal relationship. This simply means that if we even attempt to abide by the instructions of the commission without first having a personal experience with the giver of the commission we have already failed. We can storm the streets with tracts and Bibles, stand on corners with bullhorns and speak about Jesus, compare the numbers of "souls saved" from the records we keep, and remain ineffective in connecting those very same people on the street with the love of God. The commission without Jesus is just another task to be done, and ultimately devoid of power.

The word "gospel" is taken from the Old English word godspel, which is made up of the word god (good) and spel (story, message); literally it means "good message" which is sometimes translated in moderns English as "good news." Essentially the gospel is good news and not doctrine; it is not a set of rules, a behaviour thermometer, or an attitude gauge... it simply is good news. Jesus defined the message of good news rather simply - it is to show people that there is freedom to be truly loved, truly valued, and truly estimated in a relationship with God. The good news is simply to show people that they can be free from fear, disappointment, rejection, sickness, and worthlessness by accepting the love and grace from a Father burning to give these away as a free gift. The good news in essence is simply a call to be loved and to love in return.

Once the good news has been tasted it sparks a response in us to serve it to others as a gourmet meal. We have an option here in the way in which to share this. Firstly, we can open the recipe book and read to others the precise ingredients to use, the exact measurements of the ingredients, the ideal temperature of the stove, the time it will take to prepare, the garnishes to complete the meal, and even show them a photograph of the finished

product. Alternatively, we can present people with the finished product, let them taste it first and as a bonus send them away with the detailed recipe so they can continue to make the same meal for sharing with others. I can guarantee you that the people most impacted by our interaction with them would be the ones who tasted the food first.

It would be silly to deny that Jesus called us to spread the gospel. So, we don't. But it is up to us how effective we will be in fulfilling the commission successfully. I can think of no better way than to look at the example of Jesus on how to "do" this commission - after all, Jesus was simply asking us to do what we have already seen Him doing.

Jesus offered Himself as the 'meal of all meals' and the 'dish above all other.' And I mean no disrespect by this analogy. It was Jesus who said He is the 'Bread of Life' (already proclaimed in the Holy Place in the temple), and it was He who offered His disciples His blood to drink. Since He was the ultimate sacrifice, obviously we cannot offer the same. However, we are called to offer ourselves to Christ, forsaking even our very lives. In this way, we too can offer others what Christ had first offered us. No greater love has man than to lay down his life for others. And so, we need to offer up our very life to 'do' as Christ 'did.' We then share His suffering, and in so doing, share His love.

To 'do' the commission of Christ will require everything from us, and it will require us to be nothing in ourselves so that we can be everything in Christ. In essence, the good news we bring is totally dependent on us obeying Christ until death. And in our death Christ is glorified, and this is the good news.

Today, many people are not willing to pay that price, and so the good news becomes watered down, a meal prepared with sub-standard ingredients, and shortcuts taken in the preparation. It is time that we dust off the original recipe and start afresh, take what is required and offer others the meal of meals!



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THE OTHER SIDE OF

While the mainstream media always seems to focus on books that conservatives (particularly parents) want out of their children's schools, the truth is, the Left is pretty active in attempting to censor books as well.

For instance:

– “Huckleberry Finn” by Mark Twain: This classic novel, published in 1884, has faced criticism from some progressives due to its use of racial slurs and its portrayal of racial dynamics in the United States.

– “To Kill a Mockingbird” by Harper Lee: While widely considered a literary classic, this novel has faced objections from some progressives due to its portrayal of racial themes and the use of racial slurs.

– “The Catcher in the Rye” by J.D. Salinger: This influential novel has faced criticism from some progressives who argue that it promotes antisocial behavior and undermines traditional values.

– “Harry Potter” series by J.K. Rowling: While immensely popular, this series has faced objections from some progressives due to concerns about its portrayal of certain themes, such as gender and diversity.

– “The Bell Curve” by Richard J. Herrnstein and Charles Murray: This book, published in 1994, sparked controversy for its analysis of intelligence and its implications for social policy. Some on the Left have criticized the book as promoting scientific racism.

– “Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother” by Amy Chua: Published in 2011, this memoir about strict parenting methods faced criticism from some on the Left who saw it as perpetuating harmful stereotypes about Asian Americans.

– “American Psycho” by Bret Easton Ellis: Although published in 1991, this novel has faced objections from some on the Left due to its explicit violence and portrayal of misogyny.

– “Gone with the Wind” by Margaret Mitchell: While published in 1936, this classic novel has faced criticism and calls for banning from some on the Left due to its portrayal of slavery and its romanticized depiction of the Antebellum South.

We've also seen a rise in Amazon banning conservative books like:

When Harry Became Sally: Responding to the Transgender Moment by Ryan Anderson, President of the Ethics and Public Policy Center, and the Founding Editor of Public Discourse, the online journal of the Witherspoon Institute of Princeton, New Jersey. He earned his Ph.D. in political philosophy from the University of Notre Dame, and his research has been cited by two U.S. Supreme Court justices in two Supreme Court cases.

Irreversible Damage: The Transgender Craze Seducing Our Daughters by Abigail Shirer which was named a “Best Book” by the Economist and the Times (of London). She holds an A.B. from Columbia College, a B.Phil. from the University of Oxford; and a J.D. from Yale Law School. Her book was pulled by Amazon and then restored after more than a year due to the number of complaints.

And don't just take it from me. Here's a story from [Newsweek](#) on the issue, and another from [Reason](#).

BANNED BOOKS

Phil Cooke

In my opinion, most of the “censorship” stories are about conservatives banning books because when you look at the typical list of “banned” books, conservatives are mostly targeting inappropriate books in schools. And since there are thousands of school systems and school boards along with millions of parents (including some crazy ones), there are simply many, many more of those incidents.

Personally, I don’t support banning books, just as I don’t support cancel culture. But I can’t think of any reason a sexually explicit book should be in an elementary school, so I do tilt toward keeping sexually explicit books from young kids.

However, that will always be an imperfect task done by imperfect people, so it will continue to generate hysteria; even though in pretty much every case, every book banned is easily available online or from other sources.

And since that kind of hysteria is good for publishers and book sales, I’m sure it will continue....

BEYOND ADVENTURE

XTREME GAP YEAR

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THE CONCEPT OF 'EXTREME EDUCATION' WAS DESIGNED TO PROVIDE A CHALLENGING ENVIRONMENT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO DISCOVER AND DEVELOP THEIR LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL



WHAT MAKES YOUR PROGRAMME EXTREME AND ADVENTUROUS?

We offer students a wide range of extreme activities to participate in such as: sky diving, bungee jumping, scuba diving, mountain biking, abseiling, kayaking etc.

WHAT IS THE VALUE OF A GAP YEAR PROGRAMME?

A gap year gives young people time to reflect on what they think would be the college/varsity or career choice best suited to their needs. It allows them to clarify their interests and become aware of their strengths and weaknesses.

We also believe a gap year allows them to take advantage of learning that takes place outside the classroom and apply these skills in real life situations, within a protected environment. It is imperative that youths experience life in communities different from those in which they have been living and our extreme gap year programme offers them this experience. We further believe that gap years allow students to learn about a variety of careers before making a critical decision and to gain

maturity, initiative and resourcefulness, all valuable life skills.

WHAT OUTCOME DO YOU HOPE IS ACHIEVED IN EVERY STUDENT'S LIFE ONCE COMPLETING YOUR PROGRAMME?

Our programme is designed to meet, challenge and grow the complete individual, body, soul and spirit, as we train tomorrow's leaders today. Our desire is for the young person to have fun and 'discover themselves' as they are developed into a person with vision and purpose. We endeavour to take boys and girls and to mould them into young men and women that will have a positive influence on our society and the world.

DESCRIBE HOW THE PROGRAMME WORKS - WHEN IS YOUR INTAKE, HOW LONG DOES IT LAST AND HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

The Beyond Adventure Extreme Leadership Gap Year Programme was launched in 2001. We are located 100 kilometres north east of Port Elizabeth in Alicedale. We are situated close to some of the great game reserves such as Addo Elephant Park and Shamwari. Our programme runs from the

last week in January till November. The students are accommodated in rooms where they will learn to live with three other students. Cost enquires and further info can be obtained from our offices as well as our website www.beyondadventure.co.za, under the download section.

WHAT MAKES YOUR PROGRAMME UNIQUE AS OPPOSED TO OTHER GAP YEAR COURSES?

We believe the Beyond Adventure concept to be unique in South Africa. The concept of 'Extreme Education' was designed to provide a challenging environment for young people to discover and develop their leadership potential. Leadership deals with direction, vision, purpose and principles and our leadership programme focuses on building the students up, making them aware of other cultures, helping them with emotional bank account building and strengthening them as individuals functioning in a group context.

Most importantly, we run a programme that is founded on Biblical principles with Jesus Christ as the foundation stone.

For more info contact us on T: 042 231 8051 • F: 086 618 4803 • E: baregistrations@myriver.com
Beyond Adventure Campus • Bushman Sands Lodge & Golf Estate • Alicedale • Eastern Cape

GOD'S WAY WORLD

I was recently involved in a discussion on this topic and it gave me the opportunity to give the matter some consideration. I certainly do not pretend to occupy the lofty position of being an expert either of an understanding of God's ways or the world economic system but what follows is my simple approach to the fundamental differences between each.

To begin, let it be clearly said that there is a call of God for the church (us) to rule over the earth and subdue it (Gen 1 v 26). God created the earth and the fullness thereof. However, from a practical point of view a person cannot rule over what he does not possess or at the least have the motivation to possess. Therefore we know that, just like Solomon, we require the wisdom of God coupled with our faith in His ability to bring things to pass in order to fulfil our destinies. This is a principle and applies to every endeavour in the name of Jesus.

If we turn our attention to money matters specifically, we quickly begin to appreciate some basic issues. Money in our lives has to be a servant to the wisdom of God. In essence, if it is not then we have just allowed an opportunity for the spirit of mammon to take hold in our lives. Reliance on the wisdom of man alone potentially creates a sense of self-sufficiency and this is directly contrary to a relationship of submission to God. Money can therefore be a force in your life and it has the potential to be one of the most dangerous commodities that you handle every day. Arguably, what it does in your life will be determined by the value that you place on it.

The table to the right depicts some essential differences between God's way of doing things and the world system.

The differences are profound, both in concept and result. In my experience, many people are familiar with these concepts because they attend churches that teach these principles. The challenge is in their daily application because the essential ingredient to stimulate the results in our lives is faith in the sovereignty and faithfulness of our heavenly Father,

GOD SYSTEM	WORLD SYSTEM
Giving and receiving	Buying and selling
Give away	Sell for as much profit
Receive and give (tithes, offerings and support of the poor)	Get and retain (secularism) Emphasis generally on the individual
Multiplication	Percentage return
Be in His circle of blessing	Be in the economic system
Subject to the principles of seedtime and harvest	Subject to the exigencies of the market
Faith and reliance on God's sovereignty over all	Faith and reliance on the success of man
God created minerals in the earth	Currencies are man-made often valued based on faith

WAY V.S. THE WORLD'S WAY

Greg Clur



STEM

profit as possible

security)
not on sharing

rat-race

encies of the market

on sustainability of world economy and

manufactured mediums of exchange and are
on minerals

especially when in the midst of tough circumstances. Our walk of faith is the road on which our relationship with the Lord is travelled.

Many people who are not Christians are extremely wealthy in terms of the world system of economics. Wealth is not an exclusive club. It is possible and indeed desirable, for Christians to be just as wealthy. However, this is not really the point. It is what we do with it that counts. Is our wealth governed by solid Godly wisdom or have we allowed the subtleties of the spirit of mammon to take root in our lives? Adherence to God's principles outlined above prevents this and ensures that our focus is on our heavenly Father as our provider and not the world's system, which we all know and have experienced to be extremely fallible and fickle.

OUR WALK
OF FAITH IS
THE ROAD ON
WHICH OUR
RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE LORD
IS TRAVELLED.

SOCIAL MEDIA

This department facilitates the Faith Group by establishing and/or maintaining the following websites / social networking sites:



OUR WEBSITES

Faith Broadcasting Network - myfaith.tv

Faith AFRICA - africa.myfaith.tv

Faith TV - usa.myfaith.tv

Faith UK - uk.myfaith.tv

FaithNOW - faithnow.net

Faith Cares - myfaithcares.com

Faith Church Naples - faithchurchnaples.com

Faith Missions - faithcares.myfaith.tv

MyFaith Magazine - magazine.myfaith.tv

Beyond Adventure - bagapyear.com

Faith Bible Institute - faithbi.com

Faith Global Institute - online.faithgi.com

Faith Kidz - faithkidz.tv

Faith Dome - dome.myfaith.tv

Audio Downloads - dl.myriver.com

Christian Events Diary - diary.myfaithtv.com

Daily Devotions - devotions.myfaithtv.com

River Hotels - riverhotels.com

River Spa - riverspa.co.za



OUR SOCIAL NETWORKING SITES



FACEBOOK

MyFaith TV – [myfaithtv](https://www.facebook.com/myfaithtv)

NXT - [theNXTlive](https://www.facebook.com/theNXTlive)

FaithNOW - [faithnowapp](https://www.facebook.com/faithnowapp)

Faith Church Buffalo City - [faithchurchbuffalocity](https://www.facebook.com/faithchurchbuffalocity)

Faith Church Naples - [faithchurchnaples](https://www.facebook.com/faithchurchnaples)

André & Jenny – [andrejenny](https://www.facebook.com/andrejenny)

Beyond Adventure - [beyond.adventure](https://www.facebook.com/beyond.adventure)

Faith Global Institute - [faithglobalinstitute](https://www.facebook.com/faithglobalinstitute)

Faith Cares - [myfaithcares](https://www.facebook.com/myfaithcares)

Faith Missions - [myfaithmissions](https://www.facebook.com/myfaithmissions)

River Hotels - [riverhotels](https://www.facebook.com/riverhotels)

Tenahead Lodge - [TenaheadLodgeandSpa](https://www.facebook.com/TenaheadLodgeandSpa)

Halyards Hotel - [HalyardsHotelandSpa](https://www.facebook.com/HalyardsHotelandSpa)



TWITTER

André & Jenny - [@andrejenny](https://twitter.com/andrejenny)

Faith Broadcasting Network - [@MyFaithTv](https://twitter.com/MyFaithTv)

FaithNOW - [@faithnowapp](https://twitter.com/faithnowapp)

River Hotels - [@RiverHotels](https://twitter.com/RiverHotels)



INSTAGRAM

Andre & Jenny - [@andreandjenny](https://www.instagram.com/andreandjenny)

Faith Bible Institue - [@myfaithbiafrica](https://www.instagram.com/myfaithbiafrica)

Faith Broadcasting Network - [@myfaithtv](https://www.instagram.com/myfaithtv)

Faith Church Buffalo City - [@faithchurchbuffalocity](https://www.instagram.com/faithchurchbuffalocity)

Faith Church Naples - [@faithchurchnaples](https://www.instagram.com/faithchurchnaples)

Faith Global Institute – [@faithglobalinstitute](https://www.instagram.com/faithglobalinstitute)

FaithNOW - [@faithnowapp](https://www.instagram.com/faithnowapp)

Faith Missions - [@myfaithmissions](https://www.instagram.com/myfaithmissions)

NXT - [@thenxt.tv](https://www.instagram.com/thenxt.tv)

River Hotels - [@riverhotels](https://www.instagram.com/riverhotels)

Matingwe Lodge - [@matingwelodgelimpopo](https://www.instagram.com/matingwelodgelimpopo)

Tenahead Lodge - [@tenaheadlodgeandspa](https://www.instagram.com/tenaheadlodgeandspa)

Tsitsikamma Lodge and Spa - [@tsitsikammalodgeandspa](https://www.instagram.com/tsitsikammalodgeandspa)



YOUTUBE CHANNELS

Faith TV - [@faithbroadcastingnetwork](https://www.youtube.com/@faithbroadcastingnetwork)

The NXT - [@thenxtlive](https://www.youtube.com/@thenxtlive)

WEB PORTALS

GROUP PORTAL | myfaithglobal.com



EDUCATION PORTAL | faithgi.com



OUR VISION

The IT / Social Media department is about creating user-friendly websites and to integrate the social networking into these websites. Our vision is to be a step-ahead in the technology field, by continually advancing in our abilities for web design and social media. Our vision is to impact millions of users who visit our websites every day and have them go away with the assurance that they can come back for more, to receive updated and continually evolving content!

OUR STRATEGY

We further our skills by doing constant research in the fields of IT and Social Media. Gaining resourceful knowledge through social media sites, various IT-related forums and blogs.

OUR FUTURE PLANS

The IT / Social Media department strive to achieve rich-content for users who are seeking information in all the areas of hotels, non-profit, media, business, real estate, TV broadcasting, and ministry.

FAMILY TIMES OF CONNECTION

Martie du Plessis



Visiting various parts of the country, I become more and more aware how many different perspectives there are to see God and to perceive salvation and freedom - in a sense I find myself confronted with various “religions” within the Christian community. I am also confronted by the results of these perspectives in education in young people of school-leaving age. Truth be told, these young adults make decisions based on what they had been fed in mind and soul. As such I have a deep desire in my heart to make parents aware of the critical importance of their involvement during the growing years of their children.

While on a recent trip to Gauteng I visited friends, Jannie and Tertia Putter and their two children, and great was my surprise when Jannie took me into their garden and showed me a special “place of connection” he had made

for his family. Jannie constructed a little covered wooden lapa within which he placed a black board with the family vision and prayer list surrounded by loose scatter cushions. He told me how they gather there and bond as a family and connect with God, participating early in the morning before their normal day routines start. Jannie pointed out how one of their visions of 2013 came true when they went for a ski holiday in Italy. They put their vision on the wall every year and work together as a family towards a plan for the whole year, giving them a sense of direction and belonging.

I could feel the vibrancy in their home, the connectedness, the warmth and excitement for life. I was encouraged and stirred up to share this with you as I know many other families that are desperately lonely. Unless as Christians we encourage one another to do the simple God-things and give practical guidance on how to achieve

these, many will remain in bondage of loneliness and despair.

Jannie mainly works in South African schools as a motivator for teachers and youth, and he shares some interesting facts with me:

- There are more children today with emotional problems like depression, anxiety, lack of motivation, desires to commit suicide, rebellion, sexual diseases, and addiction than ever before in history;

- In 1960 about 80% of young adults at the age of 30 was able to maintain a “adult and mature” life. Such a life implies that one is able to take care of yourself, a family and to be financially self-reliant. In the year 2000 this figure has dropped to a shocking 46% of young adults at the age of 30 years. This means that by the year 2000 about



54% of young adults were still living in their parent's homes, being financially dependent upon their parents;

- Modern life has changed at a rapid pace. We are living in an era of technology, pornography, suicides, divorce, cancer, steroids, pop-stars, social networks, television, I-pads, tablets, internet, Facebook, Whats-app and a non-stop stream of information available to anyone with a cell-phone or a computer;
- Statistics shows that the average teenager spends about 14 hours per week on a computer and about 12 hours in front of a television – more than ever before (because it was not available ever before);
- More than 25% of deaths amongst youth are the result of suicide;
- One out of three children between the ages of 12 and 17 in South Africa was involved in a sexual relationship;
- A shocking amount of youth abuses alcohol and most deaths on the road are alcohol-related;
- Alcohol is involved in most of youth-suicides;
- The amount of youth and teens struggling with emotional diseases has increased dramatically over the last decade;
- Statistics shows the probability that a youth before the age of 25 will have an emotional disease (e.g. depression, addiction, suicide-feelings) - this equates to 1 out of 3 people.

God says, "He puts the lonely in the family" (Psalm 68:6). What I gather from the above statistics is that family is the place where these matters need to be addressed.

Social interaction is essential for normal social and emotional development. Socialization is a deep emotional matter; hence children who feel

needed, wanted, and depended upon at home are those who develop self-confidence and self-worth. Lack of self-worth is a reason for increased peer dependency and dependency on others things like drugs, sex, smoking and unhealthy relationships. A child's degree of self-esteem is one of the best measurements of his ability to successfully interact socially.

"This pervasive idea that children are better socialized and adjusted if they are constantly surrounded by their peers is an extravagant myth. The child who has been taught at home, who feels needed and wanted, who knows he is dependent on at home, sharing responsibilities and chores is much more likely to develop a sense of self worth and a stable value system which is the basic ingredient for positive sociability" (Dr Raymond Moore).

All we hear today is that people have no time - no time to relax, to play or pray, to reflect, to exercise, and to do what is really necessary to live a balanced life. Where is all this taking society? Where are most of us heading? What are we all chasing after?

Our children spend most of their hours in school. But what happens in schools? The facts speak so loud we cannot ignore it! Loads and loads of work, all information with little understanding and little skills; it is more a case of "keeping up with the Jones'" than actually focusing on educating children to be able to be skilled and mature leaders in society. Teachers have unfortunately lost their authority due to legislation and the common moral decay flooding every social system.

The only stable and reliable system we have today is the home as this is the place where morals and values are set in place. Every one of us has this power and ability in our hands - may we use it otherwise we will lose it! My suggestion is that families get together, even if only once a week, and pray. Let it be a good, positive connection time, a place of belonging, of safety and a time to come before the Father. We are all sons and daughters of God, through faith in Jesus (Galatians 3:26). We are not just parents, but we are also fellow believers with our children.

MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO LIVE YOUR DREAM

Investigate your Dream

“Know your dream inside and out as it will be tested.”

No worthwhile dream will be given to someone who is unworthy. Your ability to hold onto your dream will be tested. The big question your dream seems to want answered is ‘can you be trusted to carry me to fruition?’ You and your dream need to become one. People will one day describe or refer to you by your dream, they will become synonymous. Study your dream. Learn as much as you can about it. Find out what it contains that ignites your passion. Grab onto those characteristics that excite you. Look for the value that it will add to your family, community, country or continent. All worthwhile dreams have a lasting and significant impact that traverses the sands of time. Their ripples impact generations. Living dreams always give life to other dreams, igniting hope wherever they go. Does yours?

Do you have what it takes to hold onto your dream and not let go? Get a pen and paper (or your journal) and write your answers down to reflect on later.

Invest in your Dream

“A dream produces fruit to sustain itself first and then to feed you.”

I do not know of a fruit farmer who picks the fruit from a tree in its first few years of growth to eat or sell. He allows the fruit to fall at the base of the tree and rot so that it nourishes the roots and strengthens it. It is only when the tree is mature that he will begin to harvest. Too often people plant incredible dream seed only to pick the fruit of their dream prematurely. It is so easy to fall into this trap. Some even eat the plant itself before it has had time to bare its first fruits. If this does not kill their dream, it has the effect of keeping it stunted; it appears as a bonsai, just never reaching its full potential. We need to keep from being tempted to rob our dream of the fruit that sustains its development. Some of the fruit must be reinvested to sustain growth. Give your dream the best opportunity to become what it was born to be.

How are you reinvesting into your dream?

Understand your Dream

“Understanding the interpretation of a dream is vital to carrying it full term.”

If you have a dream with no purpose or meaning, any challenge is big enough to derail it. You will be blown by the winds of circumstance and dashed by the waves of the storms of life. One day you will be heading east, the next day west. Some days the north will look good and others the south will be tempting. You may find that you feel like you change your mind as often as your underwear. A dream for self-gratification is often an empty dream with little or no sustenance to reach its full potential. A dream that is for other people will always



TER MOMENTS

Glen McQuirk



involve other people. It will gain momentum and grow rapidly as it progresses up the hill to its peak. Dig deep. Seek to understand. Know the why of your dream. If you do, you will be able to endure in any case. Filter the best dreams from the rest of your dreams. What meaning can you associate with your dream?

Shatterproof your Dream

“A dream dropped is easily shattered.”

I like to see a dream as a beautiful, yet delicate vase of ancient origin. A one of a kind production with unique attributes of great value. One that contains a priceless jewel that the world has yet to see. Too often people treat their unique dreams as common and valueless. It appears as if they picked their dream up off a trash heap. They look at the unpolished diamond and think it is simply another common stone that lines the road of failure. They do not see its innate value. This delicate vase is easily shattered by feelings of unworthiness, thoughts of impossibility, negative chatter or criticism. The key to shatterproof your dream is to find five good reasons why the dream is important to you. Every time something causes your vase to slip or be dropped, these reasons will cause it to bounce right back and not shatter.

What five reasons can you record now that will shatterproof your dream?

Dreams cannot be crushed

“Dreams can never be crushed, only the spirit of the dream carrier.”

The concept that a dream can be crushed is fundamentally flawed. The generation who passed this life sentence down to us missed the fact that a dream is something spiritual not physical. It is an idea. You cannot eliminate an idea. Once it is announced it is out. Another thing people say is that “sticks and stones will break my bones, but words will never harm me.” This is an affirmation against the power of words. The truth is that life and death lie in the words we speak. But even here, the words spoken over a person with a dream can only have a permanent affect if they permit them to. You and I can reverse any curse by speaking life back into our treasured dreams. Our dreams can never be crushed. Recognize that it is only our spirit that feels crushed, but it is perfectly resilient, it can bounce back at our command.

WHAT DREAM DO YOU NEED TO SPEAK LIFE INTO?

LINK: <https://www.map4life.com>

LIFE AS A TEENAGER

Lauren Burgos



Life as a teenager...I find it hard to describe; it's truly a unique period in your life. I mean, think about it: Legally speaking, you're not an adult, yet, in many ways, you're expected to act like one. Technically speaking, you're not a child, but in many ways you still feel like one. This occasionally awkward yet wonderful season of your life marks the transition between child and adulthood.

In an effort to close the door on your adolescence, you wistfully wave good-bye to your fluffy, stuffed animals and Saturday morning cartoons. Now, you stand, with your back against that door, staring down what may seem like an endless corridor; way far down, at the other end of that corridor, you can see a door marked, "Adulthood". You now embark on the journey from door "A" to door "B" in the exciting, curious land of "teenager-hood". What you must know, is that the choices you make along the way in this long stretch of corridor, will actually determine what lies on the other side of your adulthood door.

As you read this, I would like you to reflect on some of the most successful people in your estimation. Maybe you will think about a sport athlete, a famous actor, a national government leader, a talented artist, or even a prominent businessman. The list could go on and on, I'm sure. Now, as you consider these individuals and their enormous success, let me ask this question: When do you think they began to develop their skills, art form, and/or career path? Realistically, chances are that they did not begin pursuing their area of expertise when they were well into their adulthood. Actually, I'm positive that, for most of them, they began their path to greatness when they were in the land of "teenager-hood".

My friend, greatness and success do not just fall out of the sky and land upon the unsuspecting passerby. Often, we look at these inspiring men and women of our modern-day society and we think, "Wow, they sure are lucky to be where they are." NEWS FLASH: Luck has about as much to do with their success, as the Tooth Fairy has to do with sliding money under your pillow! You see this is one of the advantages of being a teenager - you learn things such as, that the Tooth Fairy doesn't exist and it's really Mom and Dad who put the money under your pillow. Well, in the same way, you now know that you don't have to put your hope in the transient nature of non-existent luck!

The reality is this: you have the power to make your life a success no matter who you are, what you have, or where you come from. In God's eyes, we are all the same and He gives each and every one of us the individual tools we need to be a success on this earth- a success in His eyes that is. I don't know about you, but I consider that really good news!

Now, though God has given us the tools we need, it is our choice to use them to develop ourselves to our full potential in Him. This is where your "teenager-hood" becomes very important. Keep in mind that your decisions during this time of your life will determine the outcome of the next season. One of the most important decisions you can make is to develop both your abilities and character.

continued on p 30

TRAINING A NEW GENERATION OF LEADERS...



If there was ever a time a generation needed **revival**, it is now, and there is a new wave of ministries being birthed out of revival that is about to sweep the earth. These are the true revivalists that God is **raising** up to proclaim the pure Gospel of Jesus Christ to their **generation** with signs and wonders following - men and women who are not satisfied with the status quo of religion and tradition, but who will run with God's **fire**.

We want to invite you to join an **army** of men and women, young and old, who are ready to let their lives count for **eternity** - people who want to be used of God by the **power** of His Spirit to make an eternal **impact** on their generation.

Some of the subjects **you'll experience**: Faith, Prayer, Leadership in Ministry, Bible Doctrines, Worship Lifestyle, Revival Studies, Gifts of Ministry of Helps, Stewardship, Excellence in Ministry, Understanding your Potential, The Name of Jesus, Soul Winning, Mission Trips & many more.

Faith Bible Institute offers a 3 year full time Bible Training programme designed just for you!



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Everyone on the face of the earth has some kind of God-given gift or ability. It's the thing that you're good at naturally; the thing you enjoy doing and find satisfaction in. If you haven't found out what yours is yet, don't worry, you will sooner or later. Discovering and developing our gifts is actually not the difficult part. There are many institutions and programmes available to accommodate the progress of abilities. For example, we have schools to develop our minds, and sports programmes to develop athletic skills. However, while there are an abundance of facilities that promote developing our natural talents, there seem to be a lack of people and places that will help to develop one of the most important tools for our life-journey: CHARACTER.

Character...What is it anyway? Sometimes we fling around fancy words, only having a vague concept of its actual meaning, never really knowing the substance behind it. Character is a lot of things in one: it is your moral compass; it's your personal set of values that determine the direction of your life. Character is what remains when you pull back all the layers. Character is who you are in the dark, when no one else is there to see you. Character is the thing that the majority of your decisions hinge upon. Seems that we should pay more attention to it, knowing its importance in our lives!

Here are some of the things character is NOT: it is not always good. It is also not dependent on Christianity. Some people tend to think that character is a magical endowment that one automatically receives at salvation. That couldn't be farther from the truth! Honestly, I know some non-Christians who possess more character than Christians I know. Why is that? Because it comes down to a personal decision to develop character in your life. Granted, in Christ, we have quite the advantage with the Holy Spirit by our side to help us develop our character. Nonetheless, it still comes down to a personal decision to allow that help in!

So what is the difference then between someone with good and someone with bad character? For example, let's say a person is offered a high-paying, "dream" job with a certain company. Everything seems great on the outside, but come to find out, the company uses dishonest tactics in their approach to the public. The person with bad character says, "Oh, no big deal" and finds a way to justify the dishonesty. The person with good character decides dishonesty is too high a price to pay, and turns down what others may consider the opportunity of a lifetime.

Another example: Let's say you and your friends are hanging out at school, playing rugby. One friend throws you the ball, you miss the catch, and the ball goes soaring through a window, shattering it to pieces. Of course, everyone scatters just as quickly as the glass did so as not to get caught. The person with bad character keeps on running to avoid the blame for their accidental actions. The person with good character fesses up to the innocent crime and bears the consequences.

When you are at the petrol station and the cashier gives you too much change in return, the person with bad character ignores the attendant's blunder and rejoices at the fact that they received an unauthorized discount. The person with good character returns back the overage and corrects the attendant's mistake.

I want you to note that, in each of these examples, the person with good character is making the right decision not because of someone watching them, expecting them to do so. No, actually, good character is good because it chooses to be good when no one else can see them. Good character chooses to be good when choosing bad is, in fact, the easier (and even expected) choice. It chooses to be good, not because it has to, but because it wants to do the right thing, even when it hurts!

Maybe some of you reading this have grown up with the privilege of good parents, teachers, and mentors who have helped to instil valuable moral principles and the importance of good character in your life. Possibly, there are others of you who have not had an abundance of good role models in your life. In either scenario, whether taught or not, YOU are the one with the power to allow good character to be developed in you. YOU are the one who has to make the decision. You must choose to say for yourself: "These are the things I know are right; these are the things I know are wrong. I will not compromise what is right, no matter how much it costs me." You must make the decision now to stand for what is right. If you don't stand for something, you will surely fall for anything.

As a young person, your character will be tested and tried, time and time again. As you walk through the corridor on your way to adulthood, there are plenty of doors along the way labelled "COMPROMISE". Trust me, they will seem tempting and appealing; but know for sure, once you walk through the doors of compromise, you will build unnecessary hurdles for your future. Some of those hurdles will come with some very expensive price tags. You will either pay a price now to walk in integrity and good character or you will most definitely pay a price later when dealing with the consequences of bad character. The choice is yours.

The conclusion and the point of all this talk about character is this: Your gifts and abilities, particularly in God's hands, are designed to take you somewhere in life. Jeremiah writes that God has plans to "prosper you, not to harm you; plans to give you a hope and a future" (29:11). The plans are great and if you stay committed to His plan, you will achieve the greatness He intends for you to! The Bible records that your "gift will make room for you" and it will "bring you before great men, even kings". But, my friends, the key is not just getting there - to that place of success. The key is staying there!

How many friends, role models, parents, famous people have you seen rise to the top of personal success, only to come crashing down. On the outside it looked like they had it all together, but their empire crumbled just like sand castles are toppled by a wave. They were missing some foundational ingredients in their life, one of which is character. Remember this: your character will keep you where you gifts will take you!

I challenge you today to work on developing the thing that glues all the important pieces together... don't only work on the pieces! You are destined not only to achieve greatness, but also to maintain it and pass it on to the next generation. Don't be a firework that is here today and gone tomorrow. Be a torchbearer having something with substance that is worth passing on! Your future awaits you beyond the quickly approaching door of adulthood. YOU determine today what the quality of that future will be.





Faith Kidz



FRIDAY'S

	16:00 CAT
	15:30 GMT

SATURDAY'S

	06:00 CAT
	14:30 GMT

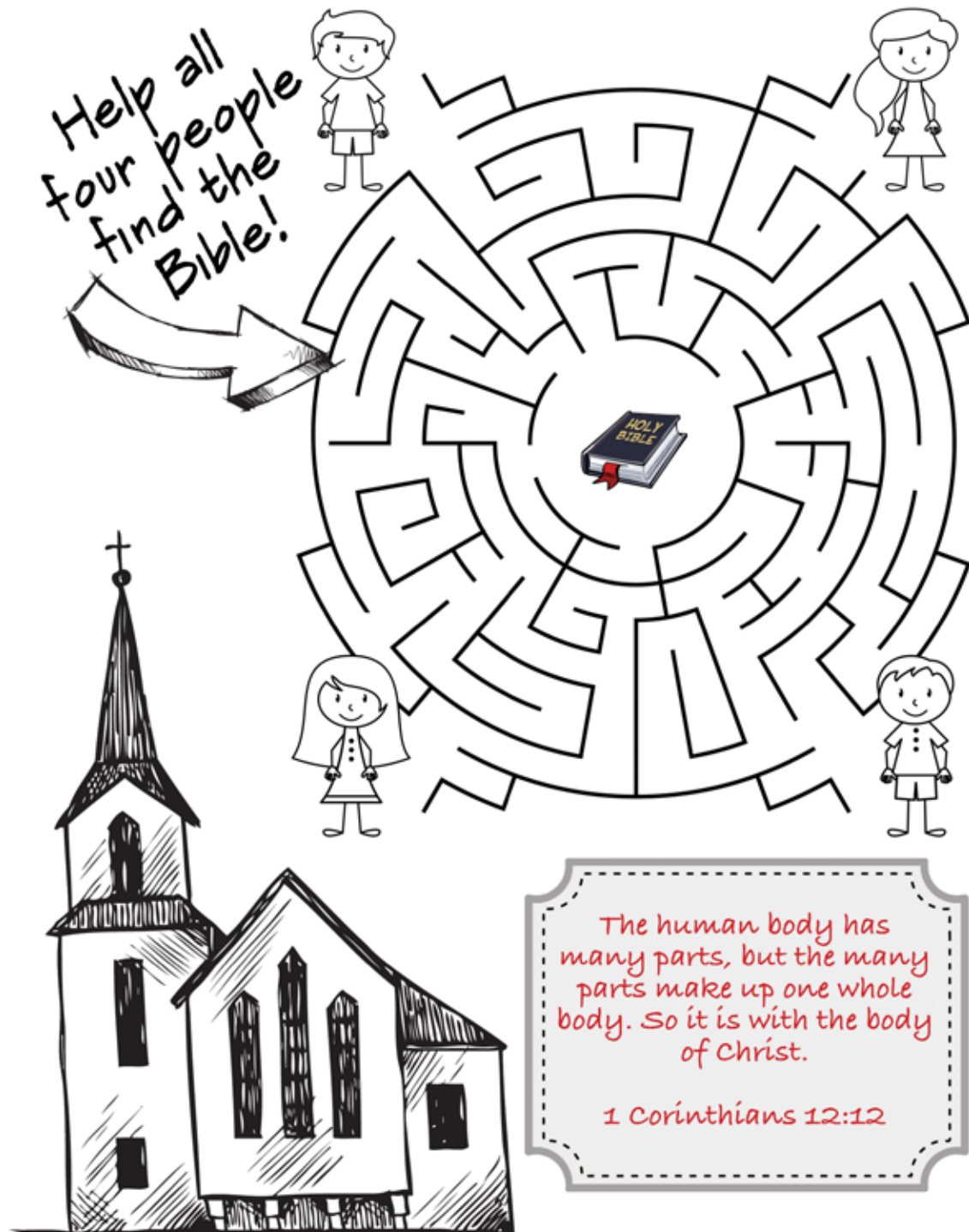
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WAYS TO DESCRIBE GOD

- Love
- Father
- Great
- Marvellous
- Compassion
- Gracious
- Creator
- Righteous
- Strong
- Kind



Open up, heavens, and rain.
Clouds, pour out buckets of my
goodness!
Loosen up, earth, and bloom
salvation;
sprout right living.
I, God, generate all this.

ISAIAH 45:8 NLT



S•O•A•P

SCRIPTURE • OBSERVATION
APPLICATION • PRAYER

ENCOURAGE YOURSELF, **DAILY** BY READING
THE WORD OF GOD...
GROW IN YOUR FAITH
AND ENCOURAGE OTHERS
IN THE SAME MANNER

SOURCE: DESTINY CHURCH NAPLES FL

JUL

SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION APPLICATION PRAYER

01 Isaiah 20

02 Isaiah 21 & 22

03 Isaiah 23 & 24

04 Isaiah 25 & 26

05 Isaiah 27 & 28

06 Isaiah 29

07 Isaiah 30 & 31

08 Isaiah 32 & 33

09 Isaiah 34

10 Isaiah 35 & 36

11 Isaiah 37 & 38

12 Isaiah 39

13 Isaiah 40

14 Isaiah 41

15 Isaiah 42

16 Isaiah 43

17 Isaiah 44 & 45

18 Isaiah 46 & 47

19 Isaiah 48 & 49

20 Isaiah 50

21 Isaiah 51 & 52

22 Isaiah 53 & 54

23 Isaiah 55

24 Isaiah 56

25 Isaiah 57 & 58

26 Isaiah 59 & 60

27 Isaiah 61

28 Isaiah 62

29 Isaiah 63 & 64

30 Isaiah 65

31 Isaiah 66

AUG

SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION APPLICATION PRAYER

- | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 01 Philemon | 17 Jeremiah 22 & 23 |
| 02 Titus 1 | 18 Jeremiah 24 & 25 |
| 03 Titus 2 | 19 Jeremiah 26 & 27 |
| 04 Titus 3 | 20 Jeremiah 28 |
| 05 Jeremiah 1 | 21 Jeremiah 29 & 30 |
| 06 Jeremiah 2 & 3 | 22 Jeremiah 31 & 32 |
| 07 Jeremiah 4 & 5 | 23 Jeremiah 33 |
| 08 Jeremiah 6 & 7 | 24 Jeremiah 34 |
| 09 Jeremiah 8 | 25 Jeremiah 35 & 36 |
| 10 Jeremiah 9 & 10 | 26 Jeremiah 37 & 38 |
| 11 Jeremiah 11 & 12 | 27 Jeremiah 39 |
| 12 Jeremiah 13 & 14 | 28 Jeremiah 40 |
| 13 Jeremiah 15 & 16 | 29 Jeremiah 41 & 42 |
| 14 Jeremiah 17 | 30 Jeremiah 43 & 44 |
| 15 Jeremiah 18 & 19 | 31 Jeremiah 45 & 46 |
| 16 Jeremiah 20 & 21 | |

SEPT

SCRIPTURE OBSERVATION APPLICATION PRAYER

01 Jeremiah 47 & 48

02 Jeremiah 49 & 50

03 Jeremiah 51

04 Jeremiah 52

05 James 1

06 James 2 & 3

07 James 4 & 5

08 Daniel 1 & 2

09 Daniel 3 & 4

10 Daniel 5

11 Daniel 6 & 7

12 Daniel 8 & 9

13 Daniel 10

14 Daniel 11 & 12

15 Joel 1

16 Joel 2 & 3

17 Zechariah 1

18 Zechariah 2 & 3

19 Zechariah 4

20 Zechariah 5

21 Zechariah 6

22 Zechariah 7 & 8

23 Zechariah 9

24 Zechariah 10

25 Zechariah 11 & 12

26 Zechariah 13 & 14

27 1 Peter 1 & 2

28 1 Peter 3 & 4

29 1 Peter 5 & 2 Peter 1

30 2 Peter 2 & 3



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WORSHIP TEAM REHEARSAL TIPS

Whether your band rehearses on a weekday evening, or on a Sunday morning a few hours before the church service, rehearsal time must be stewarded well so that your band is confident with their music and prepared to lead worship.

Rehearsals are crucial for a music band to refine their skills, develop tightness, and improve their overall performance. Here are some rehearsal tips to help your worship team make the most of your practice sessions:

- 1. Prepare yourself:** As the worship leader, you must be the most prepared member of the band. Memorize the chords and lyrics of the songs. Spend extra time practicing the parts of songs that are most difficult for you. Know what everyone else should be playing at any given time. You are the musical director of the band. Be prepared so you can hear mistakes and give them specific direction on song style and dynamics. Arrive at church 45 to 60 minutes to complete the following tasks. Turn on the sound, lighting, and video systems to ensure everything is running properly. If not, you'll have some time to troubleshoot. Next, inspect each member of the band's spot on the stage. Make sure they have all of the necessary gear like DI boxes and cables to plug into the system upon arrival. If your band uses music, make sure they have accurate copies of music arranged in order on their music stands. It also helps to include a copy of the service plan. Treat your band members like rock stars. Make sure their environment is 100% functional and reduce the amount of time it takes for them to get ready to play.
- 2. Set clear goals:** Before each rehearsal, establish specific goals for what you want to achieve. It could be learning a new song, improving a challenging section, or working on stage presence. Having a clear objective will keep everyone focused and motivated.
- 3. Plan the rehearsal schedule:** Create a structured schedule that outlines how you'll divide your time. Allocate time for warm-up exercises, practicing individual parts, working on new material, and running through your setlist. This helps ensure a balanced rehearsal session.
- 4. Start and end with prayer:** It is important to keep the focus - while the rehearsal certainly hones musical skills, it means nothing if it isn't primarily worship! Remind the band why we are there. Sometimes the beginning of rehearsal can be stressful as you troubleshoot tech issues and other unforeseen problems. So, take a moment to pray before starting to rehearse the first song. Then, at the end, thank the Lord for the time of worship (rehearsal) and send the team home with a positive encouragement.
- 5. Start with fundamentals:** While not necessary for every rehearsal it is good to spend time on the basics to ensure a solid foundation. Practice scales, chord progressions, rhythm exercises, or vocal exercises to strengthen individual skills and build cohesion within the band.

- 6. Focus on difficult sections:** Identify challenging sections in your songs and dedicate time to practice them separately. Slow down the tempo, break it down into smaller parts, and gradually increase the speed until everyone feels comfortable. This helps to iron out the rough spots and improve overall cohesion.
- 7. Communication and collaboration:** Encourage open communication among band members. Everyone should feel comfortable expressing their ideas, concerns, or suggestions. Collaboration fosters creativity, strengthens the band dynamic, and leads to better performances.
- 8. Prioritize people, not just production:** Of course no worship leader or pastor would ever say it, but sometimes we value what people can contribute more than the people themselves. So you've got a killer new lead-guitar player? Do you know anything about his family, or only about his sweet pedal board? Most people love opportunities to use their gifts, but what they want more is to know that they are valued as people, and not just pawns. Take time to get to know the people on your team—either during or outside of rehearsal, and people will enjoy being there much more.
- 9. Practice transitions:** Work on smooth transitions between songs or sections. Practice cues, endings, and segues to ensure a seamless

flow in your setlist. Smooth transitions create a polished and professional performance.

- 10. Help people improve their skills:** Most people get excited when they learn to do something new with a skill they enjoy. I love seeing the joy of an A/V tech learning what an until-now-mysterious knob does, a vocalist gaining some strides in singing harmony, or a pianist picking up a new rhythm. A great way to provide training is to enlist more experienced members or even outside talent to sit in with more novice members in rehearsal, allowing time for short teaching moments when they arise. If you don't have a way for your team members to improve their skills, you're missing out on much of the joy of music ministry.
- 11. Show grace, don't just sing about it:** Overseeing a music ministry presents innumerable opportunities to get frustrated with people: the song slides got off, the lead guitar channel was muted during the solo, the drummer didn't end with the rest of the band, etc. While it's perfectly natural to want everything to go smoothly, it often doesn't. In these instances, we can either make people feel worse than they already do, or we can show the grace of which we so often sing about. This doesn't mean we don't care about mistakes or sloppiness, or don't try to correct repeated mistakes, but it means that we are quick to forgive, slow to get frustrated, and show others the same grace that we are shown on a daily basis. We should be concerned if we preach grace as central to the Christian life, but then present a ministry environment where little grace is actually shown. Team members that aren't afraid to fail will have more fun, and will likely perform better too.
- 12. Have fun and stay positive:** Rehearsals should be enjoyable and inspiring. Maintain a positive and supportive atmosphere within the band. Celebrate achievements, provide constructive feedback, and remember to have fun together. A positive mindset leads to better creativity and productivity.

Remember that consistency is key. Regular rehearsals are essential for progress, so schedule them regularly and stick to your rehearsal routine. With dedication, teamwork, and a focused approach, your band will undoubtedly improve and thrive.

SOURCES:

- <https://churchfront.com/blog-churchfront/2017/9/5/10-tips-for-leading-an-effective-worship-band-rehearsal>
- <https://www.logos.com/grow/9-things-about-worship-team-rehearsals/>
- ChatGPT





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THE SONG BELONGS TO GOD

excerpt from ETERNAL WORSHIP by Waldo Malan

About fifteen years ago I received a prophetic word from Rory Mole that went along the lines of, "I hear the words, *eternal worship*, I don't know what it means, but God says He will show you step-by-step the full revelation..."

Allow me to paraphrase what I understand about this term into one sentence: if the worship we offer to God impacts *eternity*, i.e., the new life after all the old things have passed away, then it will be worthy of Him. The flipside of this statement presents us with a unique challenge: if the worship we offer to God does not impact eternity, it will not be worthy of Him despite being worthy in and of the temporal things. Worship that benefits only the earthly realm will pass away like grass and wither like plucked flowers, but worship that focuses on the eternal realm will remain forever in the sight and Presence of God.

Before we can fully appreciate what 'eternal worship' entails we must understand that the God we serve is interested in relationship above all else. The most common reference in the Bible to God is that of Father; the Head of a Divine family. Everything else in our lives is to be experienced from that perspective!

Eternal worship primarily focusses on the type/kind of worship we offer God: nothing to do with style or form, but everything to do with the way we present ourselves to God. God is eternal and therefore, only things that relate to the eternal realm will matter to Him. Hence the importance for us to make sure that even our worship has something (a relevance) that will stand the test of eternity! Man tends to look on the outside and therefore we will try our utmost to present God with a show that makes use of all the pyrotechnics, lighting techniques, the best bands and sound equipment, impressive costumes and a set design that will shy for nothing. However, all of this will not be able to move God's heart one fraction in response if it does not have the one essential ingredient He always looks for: our heart. Not a physical organ, but the attitude and submission of our mind and will to the eternal purposes He has stored up for us. As soon as we offer God our worship that is birthed by His Spirit, it will come from a purified heart that is imminently acceptable to Him. In fact, this type of worship is so pleasing to Him that God labels it a new song in His Word. This type of worship is so precious to God that His Spirit will birth a unique song for every time a pure heart wills to worship: a song that has never been heard before and will forever resound in the realms inhabited by God! So, I find a parallel between *eternal worship* and a *new song*.

QUICK REFERENCE CIRCLE OF FIFTHS

You may not use this initially. You'll find other ways to understand key signatures, chord progressions, and other tricks to keep you on track. But later, once you have a firm grasp on everything involved there is no better organized way to sort it all out in your head on the fly than this.

The Basic Building Blocks of the Circle of Fifths

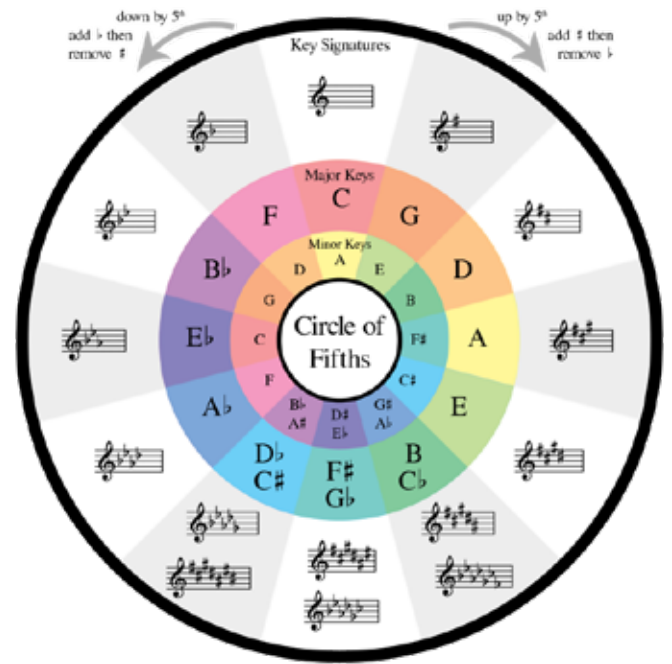
The first pattern is the KEY. The Circle of Fifths only deal with perfect fifths going clockwise around the circle. You'll never use the whole circle in one song, just a section of it.

The most popular chord progression in the world, in which most pop music recycles over and over is the: I – IV – V – I. Roman numerals are used in music theory to indicate notes in a scale and also the chords in any key. There are both major chords and minor chords; in a MAJOR KEY we find MAJOR CHORDS on the tonic, the fourth, and the fifth. Interestingly, if you find the tonic of your key on the Circle, you've already found the 4th chord and the 5th chord in the key and can construct a catchy song in less than 10 seconds.

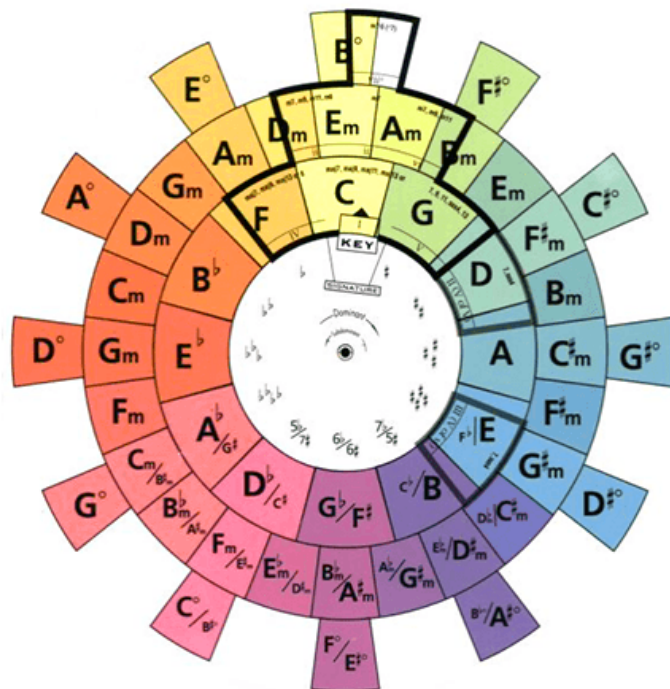
Find the tonic (first note) of your key, if you move one step clockwise, you find the 5th chord, and if you move one step counter-clockwise, you've found the 4th chord.

You'll also notice if you take one more step out in either direction you find the 2nd and 7th Chords. This half of your circle expands your chord choices in creating progressions.

Every major key has a relative minor key. What this means is that both keys use the exact same notes, including any accidentals (sharps or flats).



<https://music.stackexchange.com/questions/88324/why-does-the-circle-of-fifths-have-to-be-symmetric>



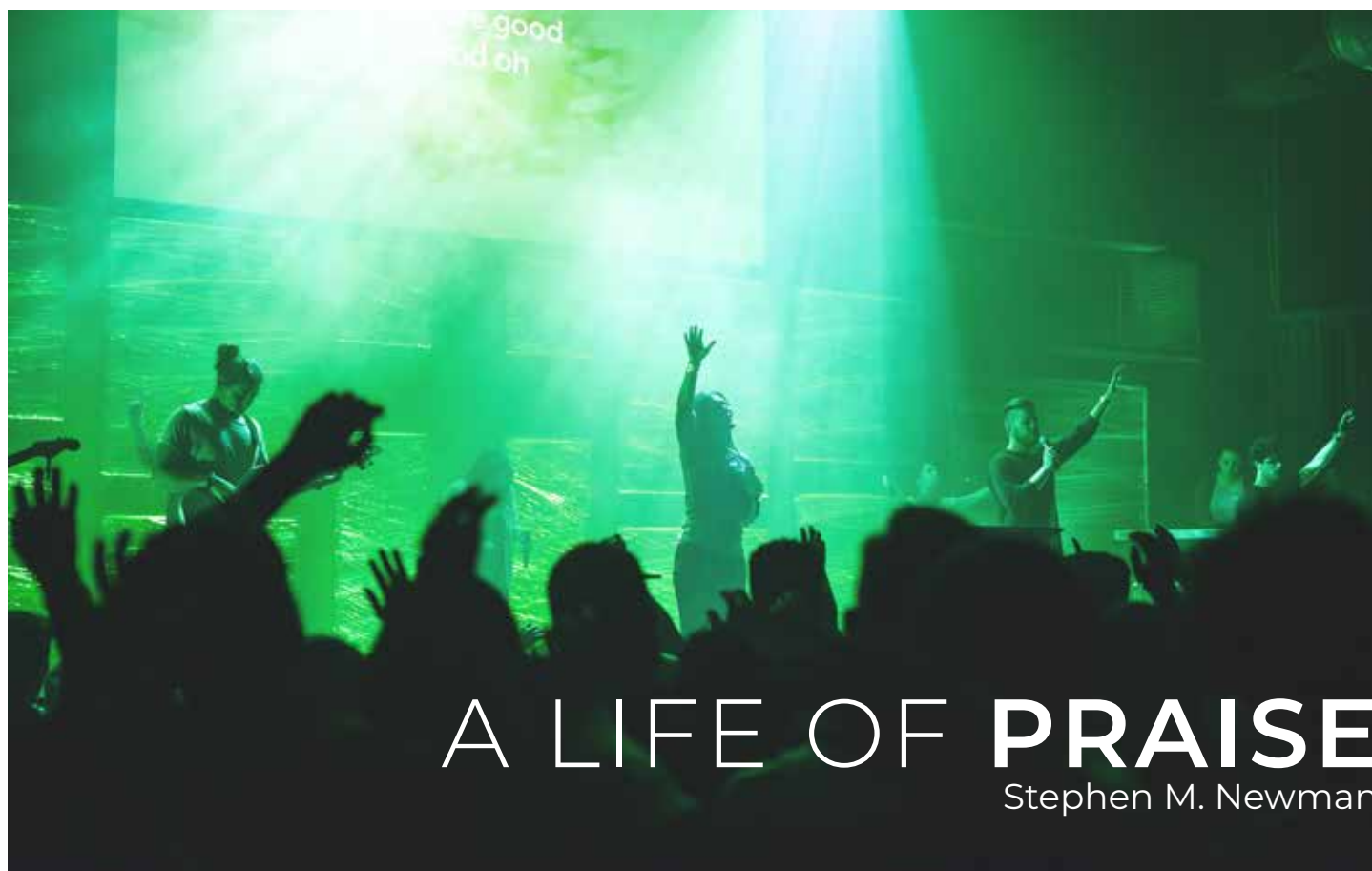
<https://edgernote.com/amazon/books/chord-wheel>

Transposing Songs on the Fly Using the Circle

A common use for transposition is when a song is a bit out of range for a vocalist. It's very similar to modulation, to the point where people get confused and used the words interchangeably.

All that you need to do is find the tonic of the key you want to use (usually one or two steps above or below the current key) and you can snag the chords right off of the circle. This is just like with the chord progression above. If you know the song is a I – IV – V – I, then all you have to do is find your new key, and the tonic is I, one step left is the IV, and one step right is the V.

Whether you need chord progressions, to transpose a song, help transcribing music, or remember which keys have which accidentals, the Circle of Fifths is the catch-all tool to get the job done. All it takes is practice.



When we look at worship, many of us see it as something we are to do once a week. For others it has become a daily part of our lives. When we look at the element of praise, the Bible is very clear on when and how we are to praise God. It is a very simple directive for the believer:

1. All the time
2. With everything you are
3. With a joyful heart

When we throw around the phrase “a sacrifice of praise,” do we really know what we are saying?. Hebrews 13:15 states that we are to, “Through Him then, let us continually offer up a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that give thanks to His name”.

First, continually means continually. That means all the time...non-stop. Second, continually means continually.

Psalm 34:1 says, “I will extol the Lord at all times; his praise will always be on my lips.”

Again, this is all the time...24/7. Is that what God meant? Does He expect us to spend all our time praising Him?

Psalms 103:1 says, “Praise the Lord, O my soul; all my inmost being, praise his holy name”.

“All my inmost being”. God doesn’t want a flippant offering of praise as we are walking into the church or as it crosses our minds. He wants everything that is in us to praise His name. He desires wholehearted praise from deep

with us that is not inhibited by others. Too often we offer up praise that is not from our hearts. We voice it as if we were talking to a friend on the phone. Praise is a serious thing to God. Heaven is filled with it. He says that He is enthroned in the midst of it. Psalm 22:3 He even named the tribe to which Jesus would come out of “Judah” which means “praise”.

And lastly, we are to do it with joy. Psalm 9:2 says, “I will be glad and rejoice in you; I will sing praise to your name, O Most High”. Psalm 33:1 states, “Sing joyfully to the LORD, you righteous; it is fitting for the upright to praise him”.

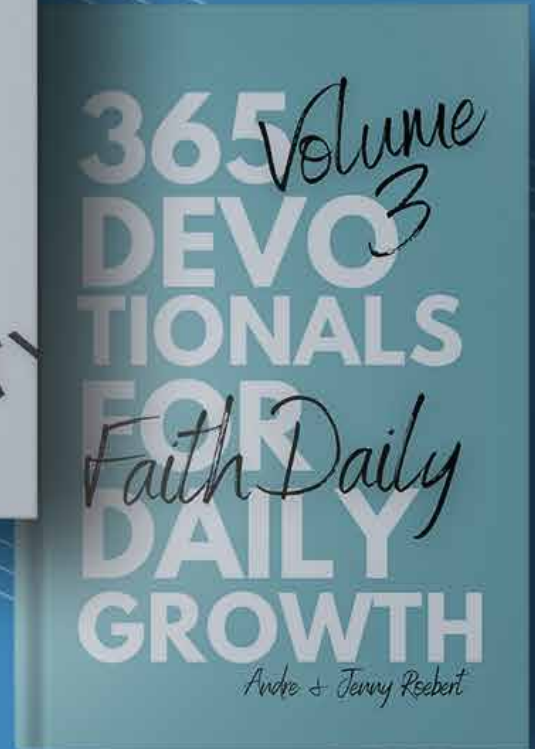
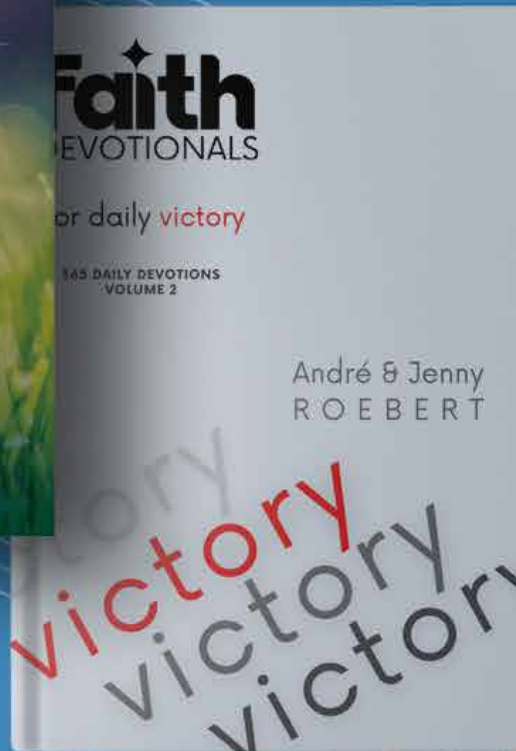
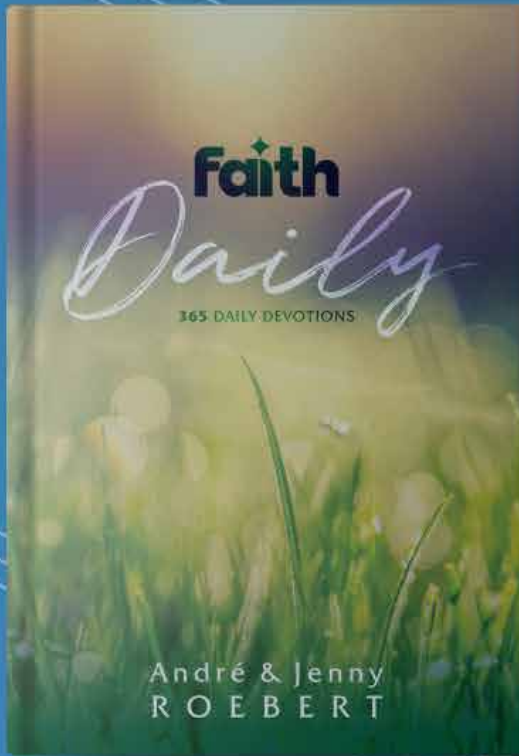
How is this possible? You mean when I praise, I have to do it all the time, with all that I am, and joyfully as well? That’s a tall order to say the least. We have to remember, this is a God thing. When we accepted Jesus as Lord and Savior it was a serious decision. It can be compared to living in a place where Kings rule. We are to be totally loyal to the king. Our lives are to be submitted to his direction and will. We are subject to his authority. Those of us that live in the US have become soft in our understanding of what this means. We sit back and enjoy the good life when we are called to be servants...of God and man. We praise ourselves and others more than we do God.

I challenge you to take a look at your life as a child of God and as one who is called to be a worshiper of God. If we keep things in perspective, if we truly keep God first in our lives, the natural outflow will be a life filled with praise. Praise seems to be important to God. It should be important to us. Give Him praise merely for who He is and the rest will follow. He is worthy to receive our praise all the time, with a joyful heart, and with all we are.

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**If we keep things in perspective,
 if we truly keep God first in our lives,
 the natural outflow will be a life filled with praise.**

FAITH DAILY DEVOTIONS



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The Ten Commandments for Contemporary Worship Teams
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1. Have a heart for worship

Worship regularly on your own. Develop a worship lifestyle. Become intimate with God in your private time, and you'll have no problem leading others to a place of intimacy.

2. Develop a close, personal relationship with Jesus

Continually allow Christ to fill your vessel, otherwise you'll have nothing to give. Grow with God, be in the word daily. Be willing to hone your character. Attend your church regularly.

3. Desire to please God

Worship for His glory, and to draw others to worship Him. Put down your own ambitions, impatience, anxiousness, or desire for attention. Come swiftly into a spirit of worship, breaking the barriers of your comfort zones.

4. Pray frequently

Pray for your team members, church, leaders, pastors, the worship, and against whatever walls might come up to keep you from having an enthusiastic and committed approach.



5. Hone your skills

Constantly be willing to grow in your gifts and learn how to use them. Be willing to learn new things, be open to ideas, and participate in the creativity of worship. Be available and willing to learn about worship and its purposes, worship leading, and it's often flexing dynamics.



6. Be a Servant

Follow — take direction from your pastors, elders, leaders. Flex with God's movement and plan for the use of your gifts, don't run ahead — or run away. Keep a desire to support the best worship experience possible. Stand back and let God move.



7. Maintain a Humble Attitude

Take a "lower seat" until called higher. Refrain from nudging worship into a direction other than where God wishes it to go. Suggest, ask, create, recommend — but still respect your peers.



8. Have Integrity

Treat your position as Christ would if He had it. Be on time, be attentive, take direction, listen, participate, communicate. Abide by the rules. Support the effort. Be "for" those on your team, as well as other church leaders. Be aware of the social impact you make as an example of a leader.



9. Make a Commitment

Participate fully — give your position all you can give without forsaking your family or well-being. Be reliable, trustworthy, ready, willing, and able to do what it takes to facilitate the worship experience. Attend church when you are not on duty.



10. Be a Team Player

Contribute the same amount of commitment, reliability, attentiveness, integrity, talent and enthusiasm as everyone else. Don't expect them to take up your slack. Be an example to newer members of the team. Help newer team members grow.