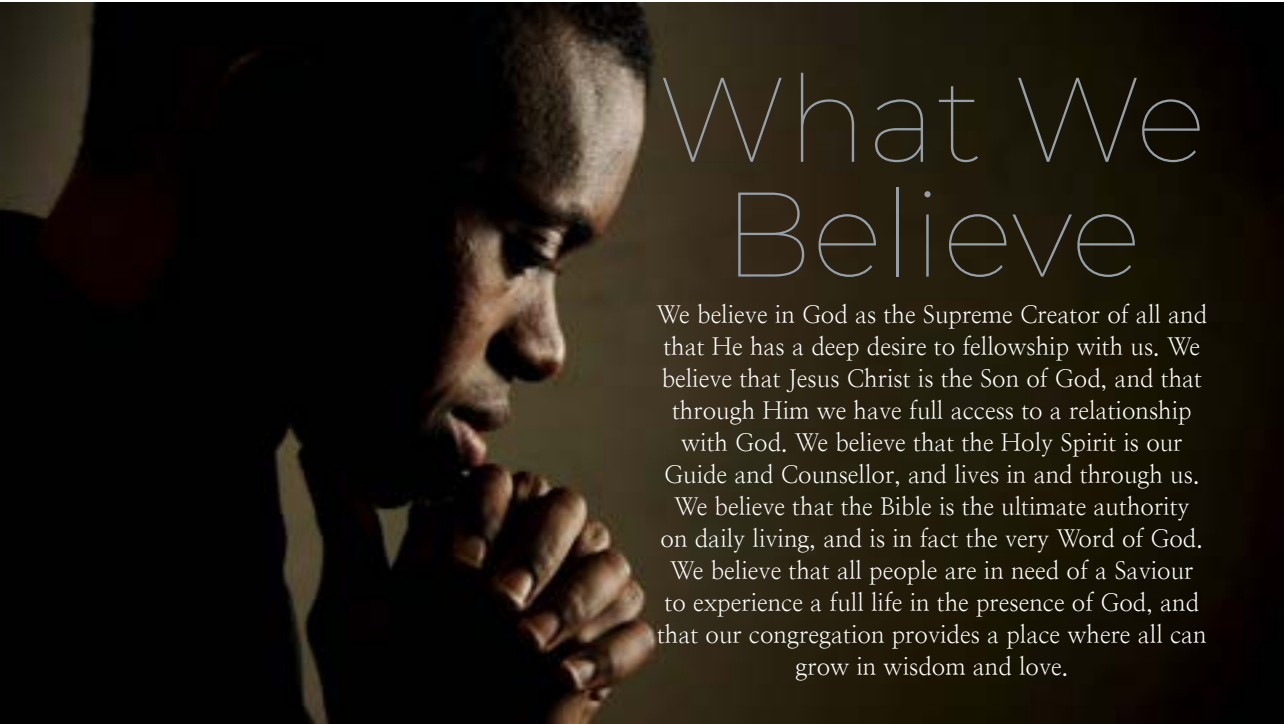




myFaith

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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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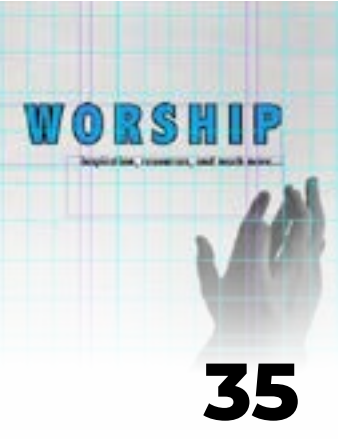
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EDITORIAL

Waldo Malan

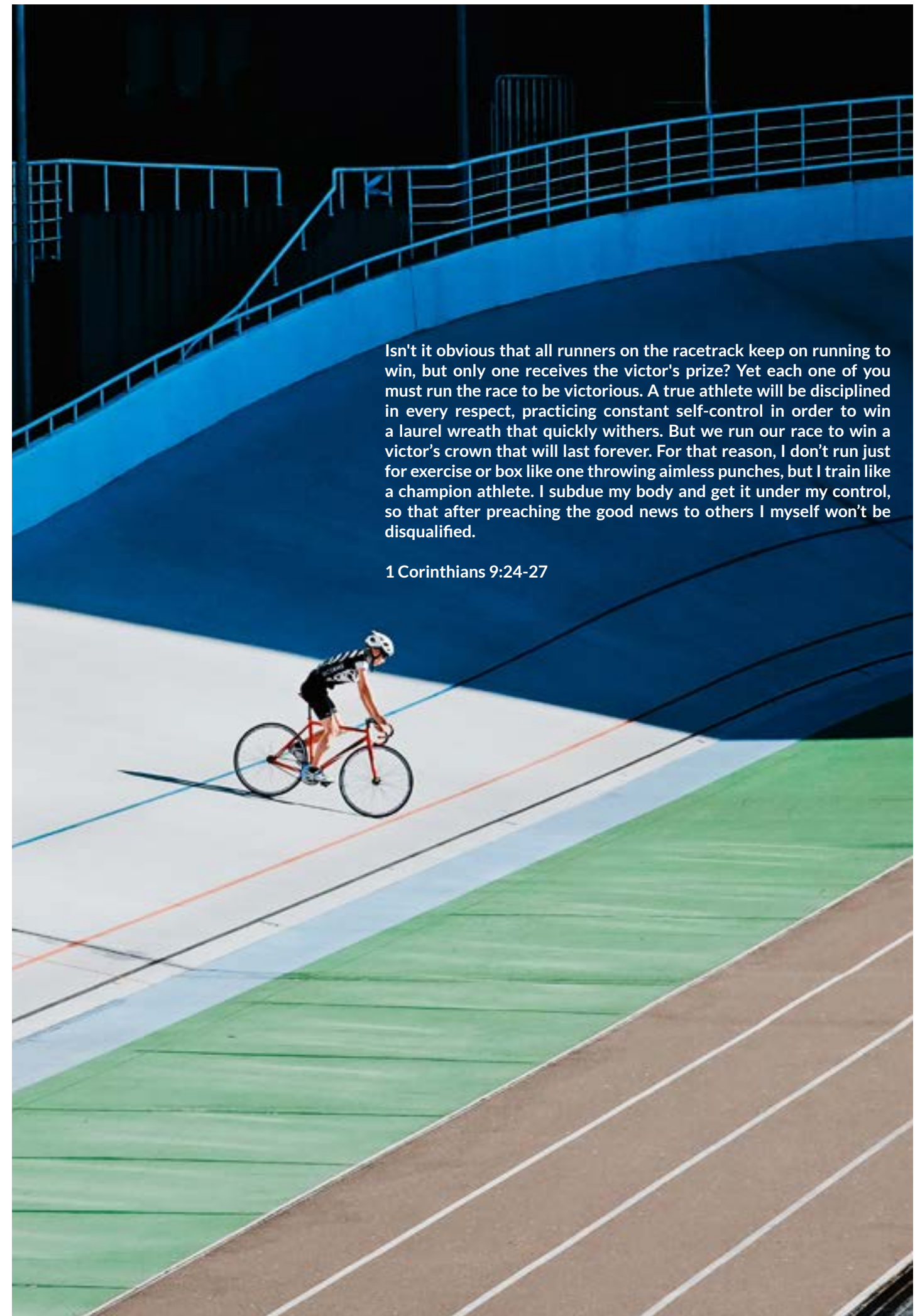
at all. We understand the power of words and strive to provide you with positive input into your life. Our words carry the power of death and life (according to Solomon), so our task is to empower you fully to live a life that is bursting with vision, purpose, and creativity.

Our vision, purpose, and creativity all have its origin in God! How exciting for us to go into a new year filled with unexplored opportunities to flourish in the divine design God has for us. Without vision to drive us, our purpose will be unclear, and an unclear purpose is a deathblow to creativity! Let us determine to make 2024 the year of divine discovery and the writing of our life as the best seller God intended it to be!



The new year, 2024, has snuck up so quietly and quickly that I was nearly taken by surprise at the swift passage of time. Despite this we are excited to share with you the latest issue of *MyFaith Magazine*, as always, packed to the brim with inspirational, encouraging, and informative content to help you in your daily faith walk.

The written word is so powerful, and we take our queue from the absolute written power - the Word of God. The familiar saying of "sticks and stones can break my bones but words can never harm me," is so far off the mark that it is surprising the expression has survived



Isn't it obvious that all runners on the racetrack keep on running to win, but only one receives the victor's prize? Yet each one of you must run the race to be victorious. A true athlete will be disciplined in every respect, practicing constant self-control in order to win a laurel wreath that quickly withers. But we run our race to win a victor's crown that will last forever. For that reason, I don't run just for exercise or box like one throwing aimless punches, but I train like a champion athlete. I subdue my body and get it under my control, so that after preaching the good news to others I myself won't be disqualified.

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

STAND STRONG

André & Jenny Roebert

Some years back the Lord spoke to my husband about hosting a conference entitled “Stand Strong” with the purpose of releasing a strong message of faith and courage over the continent of Africa and beyond.

After doing some research, we found the statistics showed that over the month of October (the month in which we host this conference), there is an alarming amount of suicidal reports, reports of people being tremendously discouraged, beaten down and harassed by the circumstances in life. It would seem to be the time of the year where many are so weary from the trials and pace of their lives and are tempted to simply give up or quit.

Now, we understand, from the word of God, that there are very real and powerful forces of evil at work in the earth with the sole purpose to kill, steal and destroy all hope, peace and joy in this life. We also believe, just as Paul taught, that as believers, we are called to make a stand against the tide of evil and fight the good fight of faith.

When Paul wrote the book of Ephesians 6, he wrote a timeous message for the church in Ephesus. At that particular time, even though there was a great increase of knowledge concerning God’s word, the attack of the enemy against the believers was extremely severe. Ephesus was under the rule of Nero, a Roman dictator of the time. Nero was nicknamed “a madman” even by his peers. He was totally corrupt, brutally cruel and driven by pride and greed. Besides this, because he was completely insecure and mentally unstable, he would go to great lengths to annihilate anybody who would pose as a threat to his power. This is where the attack on the church comes in. The church, under Paul and Timothy’s leadership and ministry was growing in numbers and strength by the day. The power of God was been manifest and demonstrated and more and more people were influenced to follow the faith. They were becoming so powerful that Nero saw them as a definite threat to his kingdom. Especially since he demanded absolute loyalty and worship from his subjects. Of course the believers rebelled against such decrees and refused to take part in the immoral and profane practices imposed upon the citizens of Ephesus. Destroying the Christian church was more than just a passion of Nero’s, he was insanely driven by it. His sick and cruel methods of torturing and murdering the believers were enough to send fear through the hardest of hearts.

But Paul, under the inspiration of the Spirit had a word for the believers, a word so powerful that it stirred within them a deep, resounding courage and caused them to rise up against the forces of darkness and face the threat of death with a fearless boldness.

Those same words Paul spoke to the church in Ephesus were written

for us today. It’s time for believers all around the world to recognise who they are in Christ. To turn our intellectual knowledge of God’s word into the sword of the Spirit, raise it high and brandish it against the onslaughts the enemy has tried to bring against us. To turn our knowledge about faith into a shield that withstands every demonic attack. It’s time for us to stand strong.

Let’s take a good look at the words Paul wrote in Ephesians 6:10: **“In conclusion, be strong in the Lord [be empowered through your union with Him]; draw your strength from Him [that strength which His boundless might provides].”** Amplified

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.” NKJ

Be Strong

In this scripture, Paul is speaking about a kind of power that has been made available to every believer. It is a supernatural power that God has made available for our fight against any attack the enemy might have against our lives. The word “strong” used in the first part of this verse is from a Greek word “endunamao”. It is the kind of power that has a purpose to infuse the believer with an excessive dose of inner strength in the fight against the enemies attack on our soul. It can withstand any attack and successfully oppose any kind of force.

Two Kinds of Power

Paul tells us to, “Be strong in the Lord and the power of His might.” We are going to concentrate on the words “power” and “might”. The word “power” is from the Greek word “kratos.” It is a demonstrative power. It is eruptive and tangible. It almost always comes with an external, outward manifestation you can see. It’s known as real power, not hypothetical power! This is the power Jesus operated in when He preached the gospel. It’s the same demonstrative power we see when we use our authority to cast out demons or pray for the sick and they are healed. It’s also the same power that raised Christ from the dead ! Eph 1:19,20 speaks of this power and describes it as a power that is at work within us: **“And [so that you can know and understand] what is the immeasurable and unlimited and surpassing greatness of His power (the power of His might) in and for us who believe, as demonstrated in the working of His mighty strength, Which He exerted in Christ when He raised Him from the dead and seated Him at His [own] right hand in the heavenly [places].”**

This kind of demonstrative power is overwhelming and irresistible.



The second kind of power this scripture speaks of is also available to every believer. Paul said, **“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.”** NKJ

The word “might” here, is from the Greek word, “ischuos”. Now this power refers to the power of God inwardly at work within us. It gives the picture of the powerful, strength and mighty ability of God Himself.

It is the power that is working behind the scenes, within our spirits, to energise us. When God does a work in our hearts and we experience an encounter with His presence, He is in fact, infusing us with His own personal power. This power energises and strengthens us on the inside and gives rise to and backs up the “kratos” , demonstrative, manifest power of God that works through you to touch the lives of others and destroys the work of the enemy! With these two kinds of powers at work within you, you are able to lay hands on the sick and see them healed, pray with power and authority and see mountains move on your behalf.

Finally, Be Strong In The Lord

God designed us to be receptacles of this power to walk in victory and exercise authority to overcome the works of the enemy. The problem is, most believers have no idea how to receive this kind of power in their lives. The truth is, the fresh touch of power each of us need today is as close as the air we breathe.

Notice Paul said, “Be strong in the Lord”. This special infusion of dynamic, explosive, strength & power can only be found, locked up in the person of Jesus Christ. We need to have a fresh encounter with Jesus. The book of Ephesians 1, mentions 9 times that we are “locked up” in Jesus Christ.

In the natural, we have a physical address where we live. Our spiritual address, however, is inside Christ. That’s why it is so easy for us to receive this explosive, supernatural strength from Him. Both the power of God and our spirits are in Christ, even though we are not always mentally aware of it, we are constantly rubbing shoulders with this Devine power.

Be Like a Fish in Water

I love this illustration, Greek scholar Rick Renner, gives to explain this concept. A fish and water are two different objects that share the same space in a fish tank. Just the same, our spirits and the supernatural power of God are both present in the Spirit of Christ. The fish doesn’t have to extend its faith to receive water, it’s already living in the same place as the water! Just the same, the power we have been discussing is as accessible to us as our next breath of fresh air! It’s as normal for us to receive a fresh touch or encounter from the Holy Spirit as it is for a fish to freely swim around in its tank of water.

God has designed our lives in Christ in such a way that it is difficult for us not to receive a new surge of superhuman, supernatural strength for the fight. To receive this ever near, ever-available power, we do need to open our hearts to it and ask God to release it into our lives. Then reach out in faith to embrace it. That’s why there is no need to beg, plead or beat yourself up in prayer to receive it! You don’t have to prove yourself to God to deserve it! You are already rubbing shoulders with it because you are in Christ, with it! You are surrounded by that supernatural power of God right now; it’s yours for the taking, so receive it by faith, right now!

HOW TO BE PERFECT

Joyce Meyer

The Bible tells us to be perfect. This is likely a scary thought for many people. It used to scare me. I didn't think I could ever get there, no matter how hard I tried. But I tried – day after day I would give it my best shot, and day after day I would fail.

This was very frustrating for me because I really wanted to obey God and please Him. I wanted Him to be proud of me. So, I was relieved and encouraged when I finally understood what Jesus meant when He said we should be perfect.

Matthew 5:48 (The Amplified Bible) says it like this: “**You, therefore, must be perfect [growing into complete maturity of godliness in mind and character, having reached the proper height of virtue and integrity], as your heavenly Father is perfect.**” You see, when you become a Christian, you begin a lifetime journey of continually growing in right behaviour. And throughout my life, I've had a lot of growing to do.

Overcoming Reproach That Stunts Your Growth

If you've heard my testimony, you know that my dad abused me during my childhood – sexually, verbally, emotionally, and physically. As a result, I thought I was a worthless piece of trash. I felt unloved because I was used. And when my mom didn't help me because she didn't know what to do, I felt abandoned. I also felt guilty, like it was partly my fault.

All of this mess put reproach on me. Reproach is shame, blame, disgrace, disapproval, and a disrespectful attitude toward yourself. When you're under reproach, your behaviour shows it. I was angry, insecure, controlling, suspicious of others and hard to get along with. I was miserable and wanted to change. God revealed to me that I couldn't do it in my own strength. Neither can you.

It doesn't do any good to accept Christ as your Saviour and then try to change yourself. The first step to successfully begin growing into complete maturity of godliness in mind and character is to really understand who you are in Christ. It is vitally important to know this before you try to change your behaviour because apart from God, we can do nothing (see John 15:5).

Also, God doesn't expect you to do it on your own. He will never ask us to do something without giving us the ability to do it.

When we are born again, He puts His righteousness in our spirit. At this point, it's like a seed and needs to grow for us to really experience the fruit of it. We must learn to live inside out. What I mean by this is we must learn how to cooperate with the Holy Spirit little by little, obeying His direction for our life, and progressively, our behaviour will change.

The Wonderful Gift of Conviction

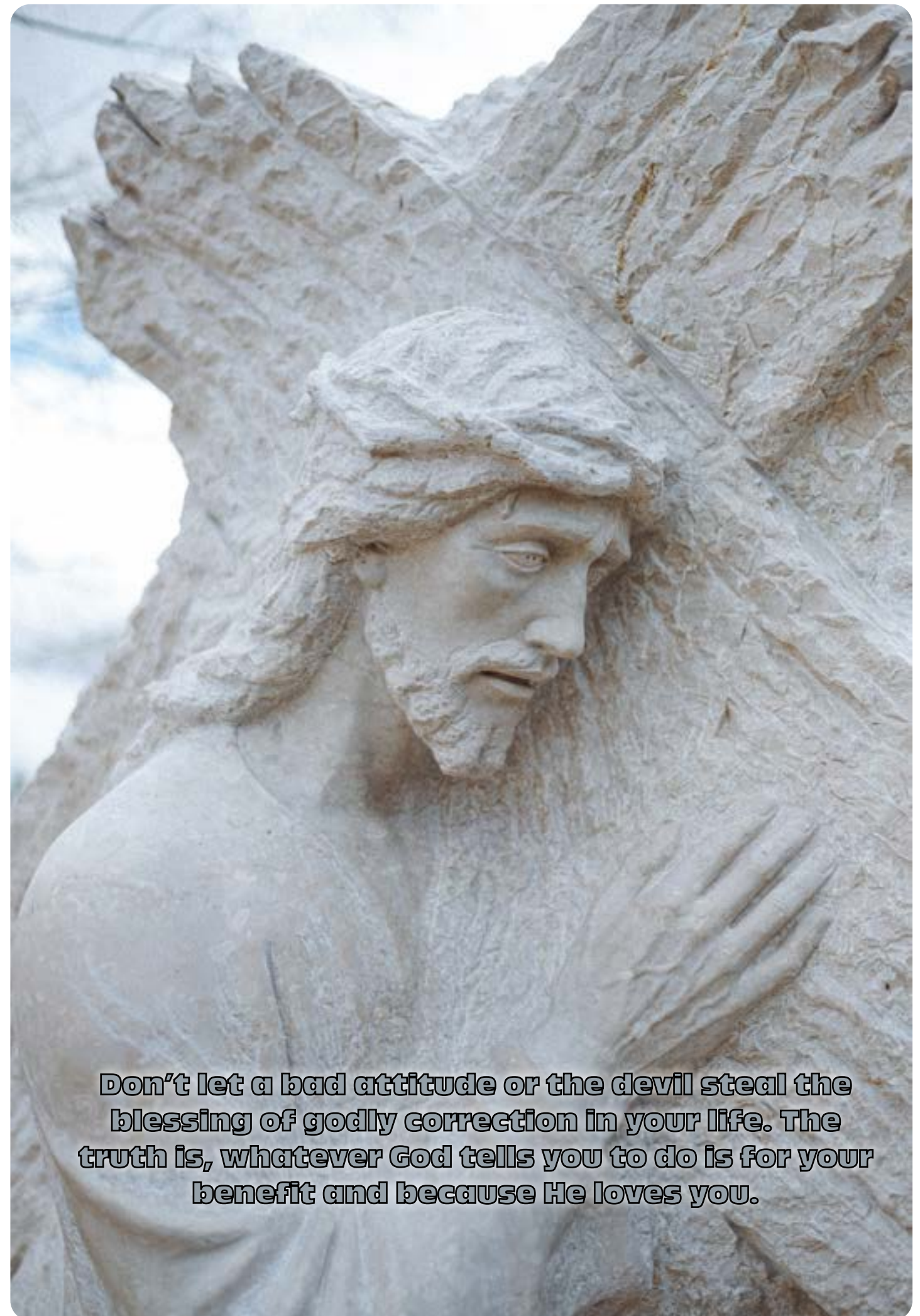
The Holy Spirit is our helper and counsellor who guides us into the truth. One way He does this is by convicting us of sin. Conviction is not usually thought of in a positive light, but it's actually a wonderful gift God gives us because without it, we won't grow in our relationship with God.

Conviction happens when the Holy Spirit lets us know in our heart that we're doing something wrong. It's the warning signal to stop, repent and turn around. Like the yellow light is the caution signal in traffic, conviction from the Holy Spirit is the caution signal in our life. And when we feel it, we should rejoice and thank God for helping us do what's right before Him.

As you grow in your walk with God, you'll notice that you become more sensitive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit when you have wrong behaviour. There are things I'm convicted about now that twenty years ago I wouldn't have ever considered wrong.

I've also had times when I felt like I couldn't get away with anything! Have you ever thought, “I can't do anything. Every time I turn around, I'm doing something else wrong?” We need to be careful when we have these thoughts and feelings because the gift of conviction can become condemnation to us if we let it.

Don't let a bad attitude or the devil steal the blessing of godly correction in your life. The truth is, whatever God tells you to do is for your benefit and because He loves you. And although we're all in the process of growing into complete maturity of godliness in mind and character, God loves and accepts us as we are right now. We are made right with God through Jesus Christ!



Don't let a bad attitude or the devil steal the blessing of godly correction in your life. The truth is, whatever God tells you to do is for your benefit and because He loves you.



HOW EDUCATION AFFECTS

YOUR WORLDVIEW

Martie Du Plessis

Have you ever thought of how we develop a worldview? And, have you ever thought of how much time is needed to establish a strong worldview?

To have a worldview is to have a lens through which we see the world at large. It acts like a filter - for most of the time we are unaware of these filters - through which we frame our world. It is the ultimate motivator of our lives; it is the way through which we understand and make sense of the world around us.

“For as he [man] thinks within himself, so he is” (Proverbs 23:7) For the most part, our culture is shaped by distorted worldviews and we make our judgements by our worldviews. Governments determine their decisions based on a particular worldview. When we go along with worldviews shaped by human philosophies and reasonings, we have no basis for morality or stability; stability is only provided by the ways of God, which are absolute. God wants us to see the world as He intended for it to be - God gave us the framed truth to live in this world.

Everybody has a worldview, which can either be biblical or humanistic. In a humanistic worldview men and women decide for themselves what is best for mankind. Every culture is shaped by the actions of the community, or society. We see the consequences of the actions we take daily. Our one-sided ideas of what is good for mankind is catching up with us, specifically with regards to the morality and safety in our nation and the education system. It is through the education we provide (and receive) that a worldview is established.

We place our children in school for 12 years, during which time their

personal worldview is shaped, in many instances by a humanistic worldview. Children do not learn to govern themselves, but to be governed by somebody looking over their shoulders.

“As we look at the final reality of humanism taught in our schools, and which provides much of the framework of the thinking and the writing of our day – we find that is thought of as material or energy. It is impersonal, totally neutral to any value system or any interest in man as man. It has existed in some form forever and has its present configuration by pure chance. This view of final reality offers no absolute value system, no fixed basis for law, and no basis for viewing man as unique and important in the eyes of a loving Creator.

In a Biblical worldview, the final reality is the infinite personal God who truly is there objectively whether we think He is there or not. He is the Creator of everything else. We must never forget that one of the distinguishing marks of the Judeo-Christian God is that not everything is the same to Him. He as a character, and some things agree with His character and some things offers conflict with that character. Therefore, there are absolutes, right and wrongs in the world” (Francis Schaeffer, 1982, The Secular Humanist Word view versus The Christian World View.)

The answer to the dilemmas of this world is self-government; self-government is synonymous with self-control. A self-governed individual is someone who can regulate his attitudes and actions without the need for external coercion. “Those who cannot govern themselves cannot govern others” (1 Timothy 3:5). A self-governed individual obeys the law of God from the heart, while someone who lacks self-control must be forced to obey. Those who are not self-governed need to be controlled by an external governor. This is why Scripture tells us “that the law is not made for a righteous man, but for those who are lawless and insubordinate, for the

ungodly and sinners, for the unholy and profane, for murderers of fathers and murderers of mothers, for manslayers, for fornicators, for sodomites, for kidnappers, for liars, for perjurers, and if there is any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine” (1 Tim.1: 9-10).

An ungoverned citizen reverts to crime to satisfy his uncontrolled desires. He might steal, vandalize, murder, or rape. His failure to govern himself means that others must govern him (taught for 12 years in school), protecting the larger society from his destructiveness and rebellion. Essentially men fail in self-government because they are in rebellion against God... a society without a proper perspective of God and no Biblical worldview.

Only the renewing work of the Holy Spirit can affect such a change. We should not expect any long-term change in society without a radical change in the belief pattern of the community. Societal change without personal restoration is a myth and impossibility. The Bible is the only handbook to change the worldview of people in a positive way. Any law without the Bible leads to anarchy.

Family, church, and civil government reflects the self-government of people, whether good or bad. The essence of this article is to call upon parents and churches to take an effort to establish a strong biblical worldview in their families and churches. Parents are the sovereign rulers in the family. Authority has been delegated to parents from God, and they ought to reflect the image of God as “our Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 6:9). God instigated the family - it is His design. The family is the building block of civilization. Family government should be our first government. We need to constantly remind ourselves that before the Church family government had already been established (Genesis 2:21-25), and before there was a State the family existed (Genesis 4:1-2).

- Parents are to feed their children the Word of God (Deuteronomy 6:6-9, Psalm 78:1-8).
- Parents should not exasperate and provoking their children (Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21).
- Parents should constantly be teaching the sacred writings which are able to give their children wisdom, leading to salvation through faith which is Christ Jesus (2 Timothy 3:15).
- Parents should provide their children with Godly discipline to deliver their souls from Sheol (Proverbs 23:14).

Obedience brings life (continuity and inheritance), while disobedience brings death (discontinuity and disinheritance). Jesus was faithful to His Father, and in the same way children gain an inheritance through faithfulness: “Honour your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise, that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth” (Ephesians 6: 1-3).

“When the moral backbone of a nation is removed, a nation will surely collapse. The public schools have abandoned the absolute moral values and biblical morality and have replaced them with the religion of humanism, where man is the measure of all things and values are determined by the individual. In America, 1982 the top discipline offenses had become rape, robbery, assault, burglary, drug abuse, abortion, and sexual diseases. (It is nothing different in South Africa) Violence is the order of the day. Will your child be the next victim?” (Christopher Klicka, 1995, The Right Choice).

The solution is for parents to be intentional about training their children in a strong biblical worldview, and for churches to train parents to establish a strong worldview; to teach the truth about who God is and how we ought to live. In some instances, the only way parents can truly bring change is to bring their children home for the critical years of their education.

A NOBLE MOTHER

Angus Buchan

Luke 2:40 (NLT) "There the child grew up healthy and strong. He was filled with wisdom and God's favour was on him."

I recently read a beautiful passage about 'the Noble Mother', written in the late 1800's by Rev JR Miller. In the passage, Rev Miller said that when God prepares a man for a great mission He first prepares a noble mother to mother him. There is an old Jewish saying: "God could not be everywhere, and therefore He made mothers." Often, great men of God will give credit to their mothers, for their mighty achievements. As the saying goes: 'Behind every great man, there is a great woman.'

The story of Moses is an example of how God allowed the chosen mother to raise her son. "Moses' mother saw that Moses was a beautiful child and she hid him for three months, but when she could hide him no longer she made an ark out of bulrushes and daubed it with ash veld tar and pitch and put the child in it and laid it in the reeds by the rivers bank. His sister stood a far off to know what would become of him"(Exodus 2 v 3-4). Pharaoh's daughter went to wash herself at the reeds and found the baby. She saw Moses' sister, and the little girl said to Pharaoh's daughter that she could call a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby and of course Pharaoh's daughter agreed. God gave Moses back to his mother, because He knew what an awesome task lay ahead for this man of God. In Israel, even to this day, many of the Israeli boys are called Moses or a derivative of the word Moses. That is because Moses was considered to be such a mighty man of God. The Lord knew that Moses would take His people out of slavery from Egypt. God knew that it would take Moses forty years to lead the people through the desert, and He needed an extraordinary man to do the job. God also knew that the best person to raise, nurture, teach and mentor a man of that calibre would be his own mother.

Time and again, as we look through history, we see the influence mother's had on successful men. The ultimate would be to look at Mary the mother of Jesus. She was not sinless, she too was made of flesh and blood. But God appointed Mary for the task of raising His most precious possession, His one and only Son. Can you imagine the most awesome and privileged task of mothering the Son of God. I cannot think of a more daunting responsibility.

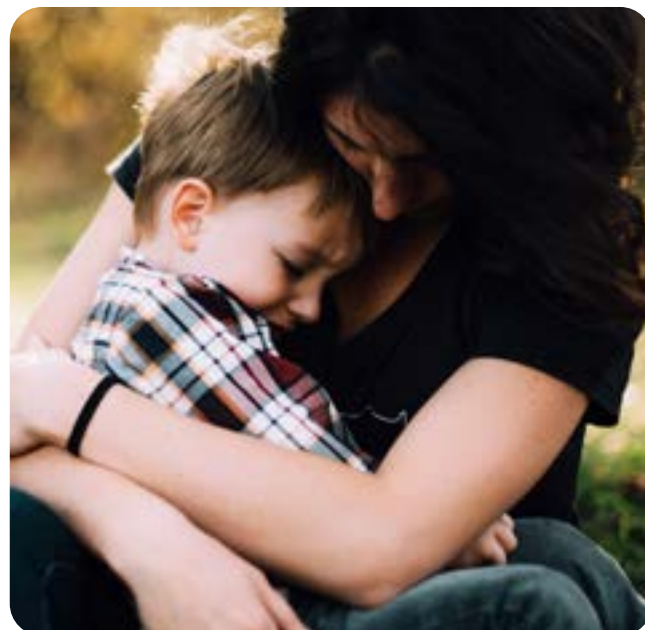
I really believe that being a mother is a wonderful responsibility. It saddens my heart to hear young mothers apologising for 'just being a housewife' or 'just being a mother', especially in this professional day and age. I want to tell you that there is no responsibility that is more rewarding or more important than bringing up your children. It is the greatest of all professions in my opinion. What a glorious calling to be a mother, what an honour to be the first teacher of God's creation.

One of my passions is to read the biographies of great men of God. Without exception, these men speak about the influence their mothers had on their lives. Fathers are not often mentioned, not because they weren't respected but mostly because they were away from home earning an income. The mother spent time nursing the sick child and speaking life into that young child. John Wesley an early reformer touched the whole world with his ministry. He rode two hundred and twenty five thousand miles on horseback and preached about forty thousand sermons.

He was instrumental in changing Britain from a nation of drunkards, into a nation that ruled the world. John Wesley was a little man, he stood five foot six inches tall and he preached the Gospel until his death at 89 years old. Wesley constantly referred to his mother. Her name was Suzanne, she had about seventeen children and if I remember correctly, John Wesley was the fifteenth child. John Wesley studied under some of the greatest reformers of his era and yet he said his mother impacted him the most. He was particularly impressed by the way she had her quiet time every day. They lived in a small house, his father was a Pastor and funds were limited. Wesley's mother would sit in front of the kitchen fire and throw her apron over her head – the children knew then that they should be quiet because Mom was speaking with Jesus.

My own mother made a tremendous impression in my life. She was a sickly person from as far back as I can remember. Because my mom had suffered sickness she was very compassionate and patient when we became ill. I actually enjoyed getting sick, just to have my mom fuss over me, she would sit up with me during the night when I battled to breathe. My mom was also an avid reader, she would tell my brother, sister and me endless stories of her youth and her childhood. She would tell us stories of her experiences in the second world war, how she drove huge lorries and did men's work because they were fighting on the front line. My mom was full of wisdom and she is the one who inspired me to become a storyteller, and tell the story of Jesus Christ. That is all that preaching really is, 'one hungry beggar telling another hungry beggar where to find bread.'

I have often been branded as a male chauvinist, but I am probably the furthest from it. My best friend is the mother of my children, and as we grow old together, she becomes more special to me. It is wonderful to see that daughters seem to be drawn to their dads and sons to their mothers. My sons often pop in to have a cup of tea with their mother, and they will speak at lengths about many different things. So keep up the good work mothers, we love you, we esteem you, and we couldn't do without you. You bring a balance to society that no other person could.



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THE DECLINE OF EXCELLENCE IN THE AGE OF “NICE”

Phil Cooke

A word for leaders in today’s socially conscious world...

Sophie Rebecca is a 6ft 3 trans woman who has decided to become a female ballerina. Long shot, right? He looks to be a pretty substantial guy physically, but he was actually accepted to the prestigious Royal Academy of Dance in 2017. Thousands of very talented biological women apply for the academy every year, and, well, Sophie got it.

I’m not being critical of poor Sophie, but when it comes to men who become women and start competing against biological women and obsessive diversity initiatives that push unqualified people based on ethnicity, gender, or whatever, it just seems like all this being nice and respectful has come with a price.

The pursuit of excellence often involves pushing boundaries, demanding high standards, and offering candid feedback – regardless of how the team “feels” about it. However, in today’s increasingly interconnected, socially conscious, and “woke” world, there’s a growing inclination to prioritize being ‘nice’ or avoiding conflict over achieving and maintaining high standards of excellence. In my opinion, this shift has led to a decline in the unyielding pursuit of excellence, often at the cost of progress and quality. For instance:

The Fear of Offending: In a culture that values being politically correct and avoiding offense, there’s a hesitancy to give critical feedback or point out flaws. Constructive criticism or holding individuals to high standards might be perceived as harsh or confrontational, leading to a reluctance to push for excellence.

Mediocrity in the Name of Kindness: The desire to be ‘nice’ often translates to accepting mediocrity rather than demanding excellence. Settling for average or ‘good enough’ becomes the norm to avoid potentially hurting someone’s feelings or causing discomfort.

Embracing the Average: The fear of being labeled as ‘mean’ or ‘unpleasant’ often leads to a culture that rewards mediocrity. Embracing and celebrating average performance over striving for excellence sets a standard that’s lower than what is truly achievable.

Diminished Innovation and Creativity: The pursuit of excellence often involves risk-taking and experimentation. When criticism or pushing boundaries is discouraged, it stifles innovation and hampers creativity. People might shy away from bold ideas or unconventional approaches for fear of facing disapproval or conflict.

The Erosion of Standards: When high standards are replaced by an emphasis on being ‘nice,’ it leads to a gradual erosion of benchmarks and expectations. This can impact industries, education, and various sectors where maintaining high standards is crucial for progress and success.

Short-Term Comfort Over Long-Term Growth: Avoiding conflict or critique in favor of being ‘nice’ might provide short-term comfort, but it can impede long-term growth and improvement. In the absence of honest feedback and stringent standards, individuals, businesses, and society as a whole might struggle to reach their full potential.

For leaders, the decline of demanding excellence due to the fear of not being ‘nice’ poses a significant challenge in every area of life. Certainly, every qualified person needs an opportunity to succeed regardless of who they are, and I’ve written before about how diversity is an incredibly positive thing – particularly with creative teams. But that diversity can’t come at the expense of excellence.

Because when we stop inspiring excellence in our team, we’re undermining everyone’s potential.



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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, 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.

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FINANCIALLY SPEAKING... WISDOM

Greg Clur

Human beings are creatures of habit and therefore do not easily change. We all know that in order to achieve different and better results we must change the old way of doing things. Well, we simply do not easily change. Even though nobody wants to be wrong on purpose, this is the biggest reason why we find it difficult to receive from God.

Most of our belief system developed as we grew from childhood and was affected by our circumstances, our upbringing, our exposure to all forms of media and the so-called “norms” and the views and experiences which we gleaned from our peers.

We need to make a quality decision to change. One that will not diminish in intensity. If we make a quality decision to change and obtain God’s wisdom and harness His power, our lives will never be the same. They will improve. The result is that we will not wish to move away from the decision to change.

Quality decisions imply that you need correct comprehensive information in order to make them and facilitate the process of transformation from where you currently are to where you wish to be. As in all aspects of life the most intelligent approach is to follow precisely the “manufacturers” instruction manual. In our case that is the Word of God. Therefore we need to be cognisant of the instructions which God has prescribed for success.

Proverbs 1 verse 2-3 “That people may know skilful and godly Wisdom and instruction, discern and comprehend the words of understanding and insight, receive instruction in wise dealing and the discipline of wise thoughtfulness, righteousness, justice and integrity”.

Proverbs 1 verse 5 “The wise also will hear and increase in learning, and the person of understanding will acquire skill and attain to sound

council [so that he may be able to steer his course rightly]”.

We need to invest in the process of acquiring knowledge and wisdom. Wisdom really is applied knowledge.

Non-believers will receive ministry from us if we are a success and provide a good role model. For example, you would not want your financial advisor to be someone who is themselves struggling for success financially. It is imperative as Christians to provide a shining example to the world. Financial success in amidst a life lived with utmost integrity and obtained with Godly wisdom is a strong example to an unbelieving world.

Proverbs 1 verse 7 “The reverent and worshipful fear of the Lord is the beginning and the principal and choice part of knowledge [its starting point and its essence]; but fools despise skilful and godly Wisdom, instruction and discipline.

Proverbs 2 verse 6 “For the Lord gives skilful and godly Wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding”.

You need in a sense to at least equate wisdom with the value you place on money. Wisdom can be expressed as the applied knowledge of God. Pursuit of it in our lives is fundamental.

Proverbs 4 verse 7 “The beginning of Wisdom is: get Wisdom (skilful and Godly Wisdom)! [for skilful and Godly Wisdom is the principal thing.] And with all you have gotten , get understanding (discernment, comprehension and interpretation)”.

This is a quest. The continual pursuit of wisdom therefore takes diligence.



BEING PRUDENT... (NOT THE SAME AS BEING A PRUDE)

Cilnette Pienaar

I am reading through Proverbs, since I've been sensing that it is a season for really anchoring thought-processes and decisions and actions in wisdom.

In journaling about the year ahead, I started writing about the life-themes that I felt were highlighted by the Spirit as destiny-related to my life now. Ironically enough, marriage and family were one of the main topics that surfaced as being a dimension for attention.

Now, family (natural and spiritual) is absolutely something that I can testify about and believe in and treasure beyond measure. I have invested most of my life into building and trying to maintain loving relationships with my biological and spiritual family (broadly defined) and will continue to “fight the good fight of faith” within this beautifully complicated context.

Marriage, on the other hand, has not yet been my own portion, even though it is often a topic of discussion around a 20/30-something dinner table ...

Point being ... most of what I have to say about marriage is currently purely academic.

But ...

There are a few concepts and attitudes that one can check in your life, regardless of relational state, that might just bring some freedom in whichever context you apply them. Whether it be in preparation for marriage, or just in seeking to generally apply wisdom in matters potentially pertaining or not, there is something that I have been pondering ...

Proverbs 19: 14 “Houses and riches are an inheritance from fathers, but a prudent wife is from the Lord.”

Prudence.

According to an online dictionary it implies the following:

1. The ability to govern and discipline oneself by the use of reason.
2. sagacity or shrewdness in the management of affairs
3. skill and good judgment in the use of resources and
4. caution or circumspection as to danger or risk

In this regard, I don't recall paging through many bridal magazines with articles on prudence. It seems like being prepared to be a prudent wife (in the Biblical sense) has quite a lot to do with gaining life-wisdom and learning to use your head in practical life-matters, and quite a lot less with choosing the right fashionable colors for your wedding day and wearing a size 10 dress ... even though that would be lovely too (smiley face).

But that isn't what's really bothering me now.

I'm sort of more concerned that we might have mixed up two very different concepts in our understanding of “being a Godly woman” ...

Prudent and prudish are not the same thing. I think we've somehow gotten confused between the two.

You see, the same dictionary defines a prude as: a person who is excessively or priggishly attentive to propriety or decorum; especially: a woman who shows or affects extreme modesty.

That just doesn't have the same appeal, does it?

To my mind, prudence implies dependence on God, wisdom, and freedom. Prudishness just implies self-righteousness, insecurity, and fear, actually.

I sort of had them confused for very long. And because of this, I have really, really, really struggled

with the conflicting messages I have received from both the “world” and the “church” when it comes to femininity and beauty.

On the one hand we are told to celebrate who we are as women, and on the other hand we are told that an overly spontaneous demeanor (whatever that might be...) and some dress codes are a potential stumbling block. Liewe krisis. Talk about taking ages to decide what to wear to a church service ... especially if you find yourself in a worship team on a stage. Bleh.

I'm just trying to highlight one of the silly ways in which an external matter (dress code) can dangerously become the focus of discussion in matter pertaining to “Godly women-ness”, when something way more internal (a sense and expression of personality and identity – broken or whole), is the essence of the matter.

Prudence implies taking responsibility for your actions. It implies learning to work wisely with money and other resources. It implies being wise with time management. It implies using and stimulating your brain and developing your talents and skills. It implies taking care of your body. It implies knowing when something is a good idea to pursue or not. It implies discernment.

Prudishness basically just implies dropping your skirt hem to below your knees.

Methinks we might have subconsciously been taught as Christian girls to be prudish, when discovering that we are graced to walk in the Biblical way of prudence is way more helpful in preparing for life (which I believe to be a continual process, regardless of age).

And way more appealing in preparing for marriage. Hypothetically speaking.

Selah.

CHAIM MALESPIN

GALILEE, ISRAEL

CoFounder and Chairman of the board of directors at the charity, **Aliyah Return Center (ARC)**, registered in Israel as a 501(c)(3). Chaim (HIGH-EM) Malespin is a passionate visionary who strives to educate Christians and lovers of Israel from around the world about the Hebrew roots of the Christian faith.

With a vision to eradicate anti-Semitism by building bridges and encouraging Jews and Christians to work together to fulfill God's plans for Israel and the nations, Chaim and the **ARC ministry** focus on education, infrastructural development, innovation and Aliyah.



Watch as Chaim Malespin explains his vision for the Aliyah Return Center.

CHAIM'S EXPERTISE

- Restoration of Israel
- Entrepreneur
- Sergeant major in the Israel Defense Forces (has been through a few wars)
- Ordained congregational leader in the Galilee
- Bridge builder between Israel and the nations

AVAILABILITY

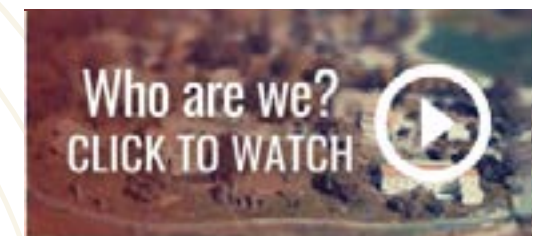
- Chaim Malespin is most widely available between 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. (Eastern Time)
- Available via phone, WhatsApp, Zoom or Skype. Via email at watchaliyah@gmail.com
- Time zone: Jerusalem time (ET + 6 hours).

ABOUT ARC [CLICK TO VISIT »](#)

Aliyah Return Center (ARC) is an Israel-based registered nonprofit organization, helping Jewish new immigrants establish roots in the land of Israel and thrive. A ministry built on a foundation of love in uncompromising faith with a vision to eradicate anti-Semitism by building bridges and encouraging Jews and Christians to work together to fulfill God's plans for Israel and the nations through:

- Education
- Innovation
- Infrastructural Development
- Aliyah aid

ARC mobilizes the church to embrace God's call to serve His people and stand as ambassadors/advocates for Israel and the Jewish people through various initiatives such as their Ambassador Academy, Internships, Volunteering, Joint Torah Studies, and various worship events.



WHAT IS ALIYAH?

Aliyah is defined as the immigration of Jews to Israel, but at the Aliyah Return Center, the meaning goes much deeper.

[64 ALIYAH SCRIPTURES DIGITAL DOWNLOAD »](#)

To book an interview, contact Karen Hepp / Karen@InfinityConcepts.com

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

Christian Events Diary - diary.myfaithtv.com
Daily Devotions - devotions.myfaithtv.com

Faith AFRICA - africa.myfaith.tv

Faith TV - usa.myfaith.tv

Faith UK - uk.myfaith.tv

FaithNOW - faithnow.net

River Hotels - riverhotels.com

River Spa - riverspa.co.za

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.faiithgi.com

Faith Kidz - faithkidz.tv

Faith Dome - dome.myfaith.tv

Audio Downloads - dl.myriver.com



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NXT - theNXTlive
FaithNOW - faithnowapp

Faith Church Buffalo City - faithchurchbuffalocity
Faith Church Naples - faithchurchnaples

André & Jenny – andrejennyr

Beyond Adventure - beyond.adventure
Faith Global Institute - faithglobalinstitute
Faith Cares - myfaithcares
Faith Missions - myfaithmissions

River Hotels - riverhotels
Tenahead Lodge - TenaheadLodgeandSpa
Halyards Hotel - HalyardsHotelandSpa



TWITTER

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Faith Broadcasting Network - @MyFaithTV

FaithNOW - @faithnowapp

River Hotels - @RiverHotels



INSTAGRAM

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The NXT - @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 ITrelated 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.

DOES UNITY MATTER?

Keith Hershey

The Bible records a prayer Jesus prayed for us, “That they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You” (John 1:21). Jesus knew the only way for a self-serving human race to be truly unified was to become one with our Creator.

One with our Heavenly Father – while still in this world – is it possible? We are a triune being: a created spirit, who has been given a soul and an “earth-suit”, called a body, and we even find ourselves at odds with ourselves. Our body is from this earth and enjoys the fleshly things of this earth. But our spirit is from God (breath of God), Genesis 2:7 and is not satisfied with fleshly things of this earth. So how do we make a whole (a unity) from parts possessing such differences?

Even after we have been born again, Paul reminds us there are still obstacles, “For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do.” Romans 7:23 So, how do we bring our own parts into oneness? Paul tells us that it is only when we are “transformed by the renewing of our mind that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:2

So our “soul” food is the key to the question. It works something like the legend of the old Indian chief. He had two fighting dogs named Light and Darkness. The dogs fought with each other over everything. “Which one wins the most?” the old chief was asked. He responded, “The dog I’ve been feeding the most regular, he’s the one that wins.” And so it is with us. Where does your soul get fed the most? Are you feeding from the “world’s word” or from God’s Word? Jesus said, “I am the Bread of Life” (John 6:35).

In order to get adequate nutrition for our spirit, we must begin by giving attention to God’s Words, “do not let them depart from your eyes; keep them in the midst of your heart, for they are life to those who find them and health to all their flesh” (Proverbs 4:20-22). God says that His Words are Life (John 6:63) and unless you feed more on His Word than the world’s words, you will have a spiritual “nutritional deficiency,” an unhealthy disunity.

We can’t expect to live in unity with our neighbour, if we have disunity within ourselves. If we are not living in wholeness, it is because we have refused to live in unity with our Creator. If we do not heed Jesus’ prayer to become one with Him and our Heavenly Father,



every part of our life will be affected, including our spiritual and physical health.

Basically, there are two things that keep us from being whole.

- Toxicity (uncleanness) of spirit, soul or body
- Adequate nutrition (food) for our spirit, soul and body

How do we cleanse our spirit? By removing anything that keeps us from becoming one with our Lord. Jesus said to “repent,” and then to “confess our sins” (toxicity). When we do, “He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).

This not only begins the process of unity within oneself but also the unity with our neighbour; because a condition of our being forgiven is our willingness to forgive another. “For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you; but if you do not forgive men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive you trespasses” (Matthew 6:14,15).

How do we cleanse our body? By removing anything that’s hindering our body from functioning as God intended, remembering that our body is the temple of the Living God (1 Corinthians 6:19) providing temporary housing for our spirit and God’s Holy Spirit. But, because our physical bodies are only temporary, many people tend to treat their bodies as though their choices concerning what is put in or on the body matters little.

But, it does matter. Whatever we eat or drink, put into or do with our body is of concern to our Creator. The principles are the same for the physical as the spiritual. We first get rid of (clean out) spirit, soul and body of toxicity and then we properly and consistently feed on “Live” food that does not harm us or clog up our system. We need God’s wisdom and direction concerning every aspect in the nurturing of His Temple for He has given us a unifying charge: “Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do it all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).

When Jesus was praying that we might be unified, to become one with Him, He said, “that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me” (John 17:23). God’s love and glory shines brightly in unity!

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.

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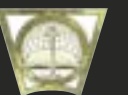
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Faith Kidz

Hey Kids!

Who of you know the story of the boy name David?

David had 7 older brothers. Do you have older brothers or sisters? It's fun having them around to spoil and look after you.

David also looked after his father's sheep in a field, taking them for walks to get food and keep them safe. Do you have pets that you look after at home?

One day a special visitor named Samuel came to David's father and asked about his sons. God had sent him to look for the next king of Israel. So Jesse David's dad lined up his older sons and they passed before Samuel one by one but God had not selected any of them for this important job. So Samuel asked but where is your other son? So Jesse called David from the field.

David was chosen by God to be one of the greatest kings and warriors for God that ever existed. He wasn't the oldest or the strongest but God saw something special in him. God saw his heart.

David's heart was filled with love for God and because he loved God so much he obeyed God. Ok girls and boys, so what we are trying to say is that it doesn't matter how tall or how strong or how clever you are what matters is what God sees when he looks at your heart.



Word Search for Stephen Was Brave

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.

L I S P T N U L M O S E S I D
U N T R L I Q U A T U E R I T
L O R O R S S T E P H E N T O
N U L P A M C O N S E Q A I S
N O N H E Q U I S C I L B A N
D R E E E L E W O N D E R S R
S U M T N E N D R G H I A E R
P E R S E C U T E E T A H V E
I S N I A T B H E N I S A O D
T I P N S E D E U G I A M V E
S A I I U A T N O N S E C T E
T U E D R L S A N H E D R I N
O R I T E I F E U G A I T V U
N A O R E M T L O R S I T E R
E U M I N E N D R E H O L Y E

ABRAHAM PERSECUTE PROPHETS SPIRIT STONE
HOLY MOSES SANHEDRIN STEPHEN WONDERS

A long time ago, there was a person who said, "God said it. I believe it. That settles it." But actually, it's more like this: "God said it. That settles it. It's good for me to believe it."

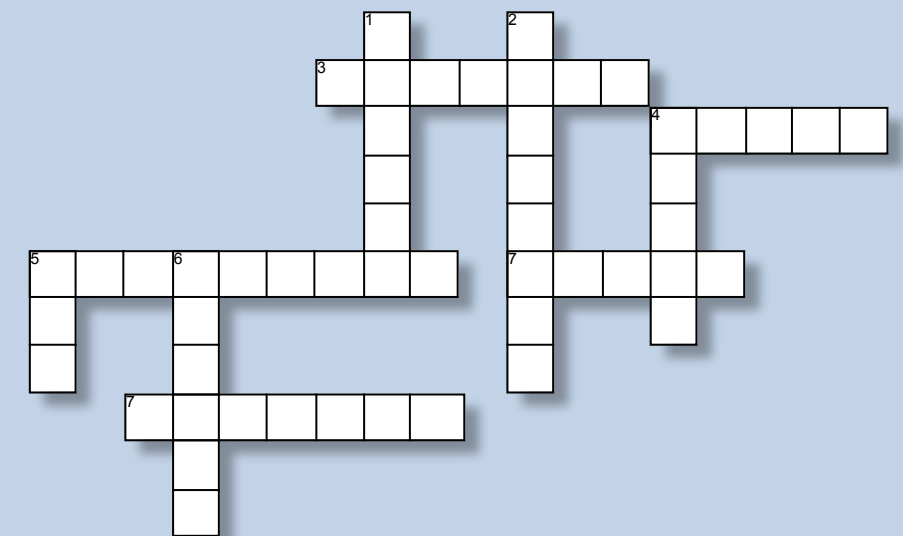
Believing and having faith are super important when you follow Jesus. Let me tell you about a guy named Abraham. God promised him something really amazing in a part of the Bible called Genesis 15. God told Abraham that he would have as many descendants as there are stars in the sky! Now, that might sound impossible, especially because Abraham was already pretty old and didn't have any kids yet.

But guess what? Even when God asked Abraham to move to a new, strange place and live a life trusting Him, Abraham always did what God said. He showed us that having faith and trusting God is really, really good. God likes it when we trust Him more than when we do good things. And you know what? God always keeps His promises, even if it seems really hard or impossible.

There's a cool part in Genesis 18:14 that says, "Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

It means, when we start doubting or feeling unsure, we should remember that nothing is too hard for God. Abraham's story teaches us that if we keep our faith in God, He will always keep His promises. How awesome is that!

God Made a Promise to Abraham Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

3. God said Abraham would be "the father of many _____."
4. Lights in the sky
5. Another name for children
7. Abraham's name before God changed it
8. Accept as true

DOWN

1. Land where Abraham lived
2. Promise or agreement
4. God changed Sarai's name to this.
5. Not young
6. God told Abraham, "I am your _____."

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

BIBLE READING PLAN

WEEK 1- 13 | JANUARY - MARCH

S•O•A•P



SCRIPTURE • OBSERVATION
APPLICATION • PRAYER

WEEK 1 (JAN 1 - 7)

- Genesis 1-2; Psalm 19; Mark 1
- Gen 3-5; Mark 2
- Gen 6-8; Psalm 104; Mark 3
- Gen 9-11; Mark 4
- Gen 12-15; Psalm 148; Mark 5

WEEK2 (JAN 8 -14)

- Genesis 16-18; Mark 6
- Gen 19-20; Psalm 1; Mark 7
- Gen 21-23; Psalm 107; Mark 8
- Gen 24-25; Psalm 4; Mark 9
- Gen 26-27; Mark 10

WEEK3 (JAN 15-21)

- Genesis 28-29; Mark 11
- Gen 30-31; Psalm 11; Mark 12
- Gen 32-34; Psalm 145; Mark 13
- Gen 35-37; Psalm 12; Mark 14
- Gen 38-40; Mark 15

WEEK4 (JAN 22-28)

- Genesis 41-42; Mark 16
- Gen 43-44; Psalm 24; Galatians 1
- Gen 45-46; Psalm 108; Gal 2
- Gen 47-48; Psalm 25; Gal 3
- Gen 49-50; Gal 4

WEEK5 (JAN 29 - FEB 4)

- Exodus 1-3; Ga15
- Exodus 4-6; Gal 6
- Exodus 7-9; Psalm 105; Ephesians 1
- Exodus 10-12; Eph 2
- Exodus 13-15; Psalm 114; Eph 3

WEEK6 (FEB 5 - 11)

- Exodus 16-18; Eph 4
- Exodus 19-21; Psalm 33; Eph 5
- Exodus 22-24; Psalm 109; Eph 6
- Exodus 25-27; Psalm 90; Philippians 1
- Exodus 28-31; Phil 2

WEEK7 (FEB 12-18)

- Exodus 32-34; Philippians 3
- Exodus 35-37; Psalm 26; Phil 4
- Exodus 38-40; Hebrews 1
- Leviticus 1-3; Psalm 27; Heb 2
- Lev 4-7; Heb 3

WEEK8 (FEB 19-25)

- Leviticus 8-11; Ps 110; Hebrews 4
- Lev 12-14; Psalm 111; Heb 5
- Lev 15-18; Psalm 31; Heb 6
- Lev 19-20; Heb 7
- Lev 21-23; Heb 8

WEEK9 (FEB 26 - MAR 4)

- Leviticus 24-25; Psalm 81; Hebrews 9
- Lev 26-27; Psalm 112; Heb 10
- Numbers 1-2; Psalm 64; Heb 11
- Num 3-5; Heb 12
- Num 6-7; Heb 13

WEEK 10 (MAR 5 - 11)

- Numbers 8-11; Colossians 1
- Num 12-14; Psalm 28; Col 2
- Num 15-18; Psalm 113; Col 3
- Num 19-21; Col 4
- Num 22-25; Luke 1

WEEK 11 (MAR 12 - 18)

- Numbers 26-29; Luke 2
- Num 30-33; Psalm 35; Luke 3
- Num 34-36; Luke 4
- Deuteronomy 1-3; Psalm 36; Luke 5
- Deut 4-5; Luke 6

WEEK 12 (MAR 19 - 25)

- Deuteronomy 6-9; Luke 7
- Deut 10-14; Psalm 5; Luke 8
- Deut 15-18; Psalm 115; Luke 9
- Deut 19-22; Psalm 6; Luke 10
- Deut 23-26; Luke 11

WEEK 13 (MAR 26 - APR 1)

- Deut 27-31; Luke 12
- Deut 32-34; Psalm 13; Luke 13
- Joshua 1-4; Psalm 143; Luke 14
- Joshua 5-8; Psalm 14; Luke 15
- Joshua 9-13; Luke 16



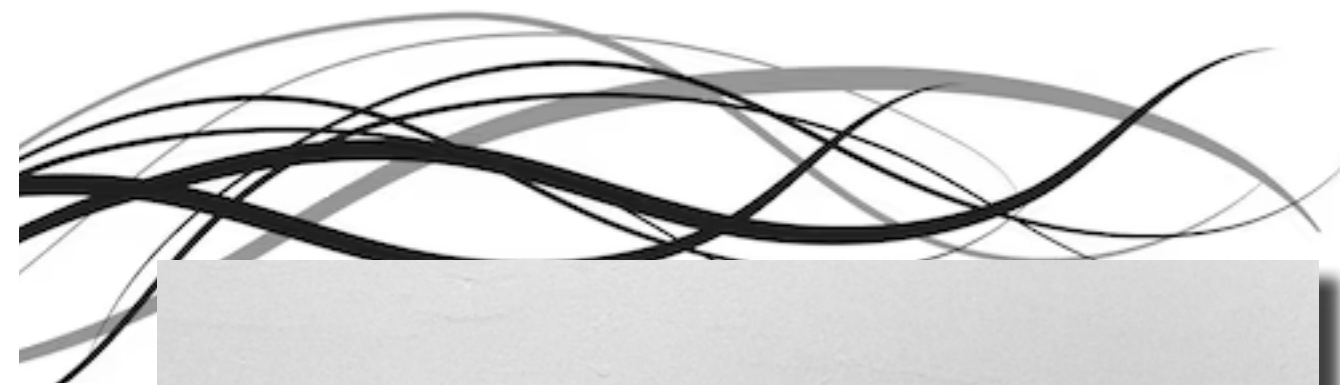
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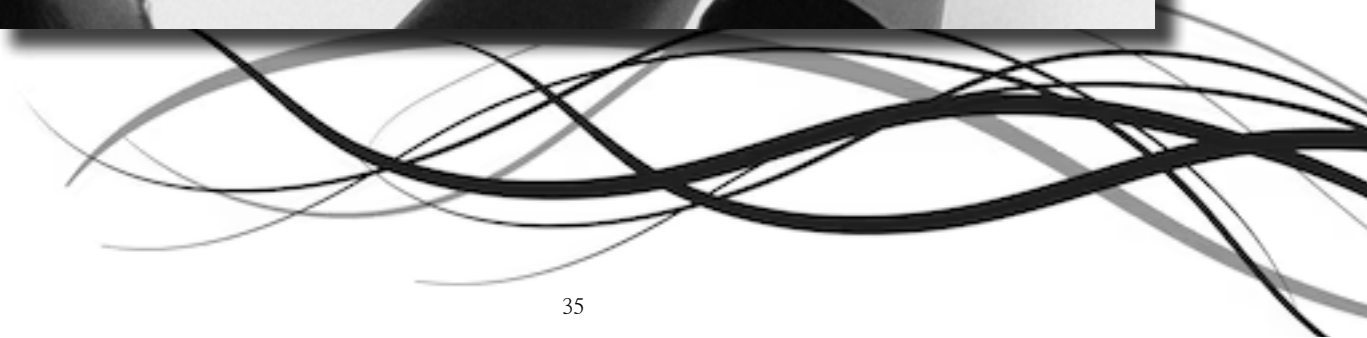


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TRANSITION TIPS IN WORSHIP SETS

Logan Cain

Cain is comprised of three siblings, Madison, Taylor and Logan, and they pour their perpetual joy into every album they release. Their favorite thing is singing about Jesus which is why in recent years, they have shifted their musical style to what they believe God has always been calling them toward Christian Music.

Logan Cain shares some technical and spiritual tips on how to make worship sets feel natural, meaningful, and on-purpose.

TRANSITIONS CAN BE AWKWARD!

Whether it is a transition from one life stage to another, a transition between jobs, or a transition that comes with moving to a new city, if you aren't prepared, a transition can create some real discomfort.

In the same way, transitions between elements of a worship set can feel just as clunky and awkward as a worship leader attempts to carry the congregation into deeper moments of connection with God.

If a worship leader doesn't think through the transitions during a worship set, they can very well leave the congregation distracted instead of engaged.

Moments of complete silence, startling intros to a song, or abrupt key changes can disrupt a congregant's worship experience, but with some added forethought, the transitions throughout your worship set can be smooth, disarming, and help usher your congregation from moments of celebration to moments of reverence.

Here are some essentials to help your transitions be as seamless as possible in your next worship set:

1. IN-EAR CLICK/CUES + BACKING TRACKS

There are many helpful resources for worship teams these days, but none may be more helpful than in-ear click/cues and accompanying backing tracks. Click and cues eliminate the need for an audible count-off to start songs. And, they help every instrumentalist and vocalist remain aware of the song's timing and approaching song elements (verse, chorus, bridge, etc.).

These cues can also be customized to feature key words that will help the team prepare for the next song and stay aware of the direction of the worship set.

Backing Tracks are another resource that can make transitions between songs flawless. MultiTracks software, for instance, allows you to crossfade the backing musical

tracks from one song into the next, thus eliminating dead space between songs and thoughtfully carrying the congregation to the next element of the worship set.

When you hit the final downbeat of Song 1, the in-ear click/cues for Song 2 will immediately count in and your band will be off to the races!

2. MUSIC PADS

When moving from one song to the next, another way to smooth that transition is through the use of a music pad. This can be a simple piano tone or even electric guitar swells played softly in the space between songs. This music pad instrument should be the last one to fade out from Song 1 and then slowly fade into Song 2.

Whether the songs in the transition are in the same key or different, a well-executed music pad can help keep the audience in a place of reverence instead of hindrance.

3. KEY SELECTIONS

In the easiest of scenarios, your worship team will pair songs back-to-back that are in the same key. That really lends itself to a smooth and simple song transition, but even if your songs aren't in the same key, they can flow seamlessly together if they are in related keys.

This means the keys of successive songs will share common tones and chords. In other instances, songs can be a relative minor of another song which means they have the same key signature – an example would be B minor to D major.

A good rule of thumb to make a transition between consecutive songs as smooth as possible is to keep the difference in the song keys less than one sharp or flat.



Worship sets can't always be keyed the same throughout, but thinking through the key selection and making small adjustments here and there will help prevent jarring sounds and disjointed worship experiences.

4. MINISTRY ELEMENTS

Often, transitions between songs in a worship set can be places for meaningful prayer, testimonies, or scripture readings. These elements can be great additions to the worship set, but if not thought through, they can create a disjointed and clunky transition for the worship team.

These ministry elements should go hand in hand with the what the worship team is doing in two ways:

One, these elements should tie in thematically to the songs being played. If the worship team has just played or is preparing to play "Goodness of God" for instance, the ministry element that is shared from stage should dive deeper into that theme. The on-stage speaker could share scripture pertaining to God's goodness or share a personal testimony of how God's goodness has impacted them.

Connecting a ministry element to the theme of the songs in the worship set will help the congregation personalize the songs or understand them in a new way.



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VARIATION ON THEME

(LIVE BAND VS. PRE-RECORDED MUSIC FOR KIDS)

Yancy

There's a question that will always come up in conversations with ministry leaders. Is it better to have a band with live music or use tracks? I think often we see worship done with a band as the holy grail and all other options are lesser than. There are plenty of perks and advantages to having live music in your worship services. There are also many equipment, technology, schedule and most of all personnel needs that go right along with it. I want to encourage you today that if you're not there yet, that is okay. You can still have meaningful and purposeful worship times for kids utilizing pre-recorded music. Stop thinking of the track as a disadvantage. I spend more time leading worship with tracks and lyric videos than I do with a live band these days. I believe I am still able to lead God ordained and anointed worship sets for kids. Keep praying and seeking Him as you plan out your worship sets. Study to know your songs, and arrangements so you can lead your group effectively through the songs. Creating engagement, reflection and encouraging postures of worship throughout. Remember to navigate the intros, outros, and instrumental breaks to make them work for you, not against you.

This summer while leading worship for various VBS and camps, I was reminded of something. Growing up my

ballet teacher will introduce a new combination we were going to do and he'd say, "Now variation on theme". It means that it's something familiar, most likely using elements of the previous thing we did but with a few changes along the way. Mid-week I was able to introduce a remix version of one of my most popular songs. A true variation on theme. It's the same melody and words of the song. The music and beat is what is the change. There are some updates and changes to the lyric video too. By using this song I'm able to create a moment of fun and even surprise but it's not done at the cost of introducing something new that would be unknown. The risk of "will they know this? Will they like it and connect to it?" isn't there. I'm able to plan that arrangement in my worship set and it strengthen it. It's fun, different, yet the same all at the same time.

A perk of live music is that you can change an arrangement on a whim. You can choose to just do the chorus and bridge one day. You can start the song with one instrument and then the band build in later in the song. You can start the song full band with a big intro. There's variations, based on the day and what your sets needs, that you lead your band to play. Within these you're not playing the same song exactly the same way every time. You get the perk of it being familiar but you're using the song and its arrange-

ment in the best way possible for that set. The great part of "popular worship songs" is there are usually many versions that get recorded of the same song. So even if you're using tracks there's ways you can do something similar. Find the same song by a different artist or resource company that sounds a little different. It provides a change and allows you to lead the song differently than the last twelve times you've sang it. You also could always edit down a track to be just the chorus and bridge if that's what you really need. Make an edit in Garage Band or ProTools and even your video to match in iMovie. It's possible.

If you still have that desire to add some live music into what you're doing but you know a full band is a ways off, here's an idea. Do one song with the 1-2 instruments you have now. Because up-tempo, fast songs really rely on the energy of the drumbeats and programming use your track for those. It's next to impossible to have that kind of energy with just an acoustic guitar. But you could totally lead your slower worship song with just an acoustic or piano. You can carry the song without feeling like you're missing the band. This can be a great way to start taking steps with what you have but most of all stewarding the worship time for your students well. Meeting their needs but leading them to experience God's presence every time you gather.



Yancy is a worship leader and songwriter for kids that travels the globe doing family concerts and training worship leaders. Every week her songs are used in thousands of churches around the world. Her Dove Award winning music is all the things kids love and everything adults value. Her popular worship resources include "Little Praise Party", "Kidmin Worship" and "Heartbeat Curriculum". Yancy created her first children's musical for Lillenas Kids: "Best Christmas Song Ever". She authored the book "Sweet Sound: The Power of Discipling Kids in Worship". She lives with her husband and sons in Nashville, TN.

YancyMinistries.com



FAITH AND WORSHIP

Waldo Malan

You never saw him, yet you love him. You still don't see him, yet you trust him—with laughter and singing. Because you kept on believing, you'll get what you're looking forward to: total salvation. (1 Peter 1:8-9 MSG)

Our next thought is a great one: Peter says that we are able to love Jesus even though we have not seen Him! Have you ever thought about that? We are able to love Him because the Holy Spirit has empowered us to do so. Jesus told His disciples that the Holy Spirit would be their Teacher, and He continues to be ours today! Peter goes further with this thought and reminds us that we are also able to believe in Jesus even though we've never seen Him with our physical eyes! This, my friend, is the essence of faith! Without having seen Jesus, we are able to believe in Him and love Him, exercising our created ability of faith. We are essentially creatures of faith and we have to operate in faith; firstly because God requires it, and He requires it because He created us to have it as part of our make-up. When we operate in this level of faith we are fulfilling our created purpose and this causes us great rejoicing, joy unspeakable and full of glory. The ultimate result of this simple yet powerful truth is that it is precisely this faith that gives us our salvation.

To LOVE without seeing

+

To BELIEVE without seeing

=

FAITH

Let us continue: when we operate in faith it causes us to experience great rejoicing, joy unspeakable and to be full of glory. I want us to focus on the last part of the result of faith - being full of glory. Remember that the writer of the letter to the Hebrews stated that Jesus is the sole

expression of the glory of God [Hebrews 1:4], while we look a little deeper at the meaning of glory. When we understand the meaning of the word it may just reveal to us how great God is, and how great [wonderfully and fearfully (Ps 139:14)] He created us to be! Yes, my friend, God created you to be great!

The word glory in this context comes from the Greek word *doxazo*, meaning to esteem glorious, to honour and magnify. Consider also the fact that we were created to worship God [Revelation 4:11], and that when we worship He dwells or lives on the inside of us [Psalm 24]; also that we are grafted into Jesus Himself [John 15:4]! This Greek word is formed from the verb *dokeo*, meaning to please oneself, to do good and to think. GLORY essentially means GOODNESS. Now look at the logical progression of our thoughts:

1. We were created to worship God...
2. When we worship we are fulfilling our created purpose...
3. We worship One Whom we've never seen yet love...
4. Thus our worship is in FAITH...
5. FAITH is the only way to please the Father...
6. Therefore faith IS worship...
7. And when we please God our Creator we are ultimately pleasing ourselves - not in some selfish and vain way, but rather that the joy of the Lord is our strength!

SMOOTH TRANSITIONS

(THE KEYS PLAYER’S ROLE)

David Pfaltzgraff



Transitions in your worship set are some of the most important moments, so why are they often the least thought out? I've been a part of many a worship set filled with awkward spaces, abrupt key or tempo changes, and long gaps while waiting for that one person who always misses their cue to actually get up on stage to transition into announcements.

If you've been playing worship keys in church for a while, I'm sure you've been a part of a train wreck or two yourself. Here's the thing - we know that transitions are where things often go off the rails. We also know that the worship keys position can often be the most important factor in whether a given transition makes or misses the mark.

Is it possible to get better at these moments? Maybe to even prepare for them? I would argue absolutely yes, but practicing and rehearsing for transitions requires a different mindset than covering a popular worship song. Let's explore three distinct aspects of transitions, and what's required of you as a modern worship keys player.

BUILDING BRIDGES

Good transitions can transform a collection of songs into a cohesive worship experience. Bad transitions can emphasize any disconnect between songs, pulling your congregation out of the moment.

What separates a good transition from a bad one? There's no one size fits all answer, but there is a common ingredient across all good transitions: intention.

If you put the effort into doing the transition on purpose, treating it as a specific, musical moment and opportunity, then you'll be 90% of the way there. Good transitions don't always have to be near the same tempo or in the same key, they don't even necessarily need to be in complementary keys. You just have to take the time to evaluate the bridge you need to build and build with intention.

It all must start with intention, or it will always feel thrown together on the fly. If your church uses an online planning app, start adding the transitions as unique service moments in between your songs, and practice them as a team. It will go a long way towards improving these often-neglected moments.

As a keys player, your ability to blend seamlessly from one song to the next maintains continuity and keeps the service moving forward without unnecessary distraction.

ELEVATING DYNAMICS

The second key aspect is all about the feeling. If you've ever found yourself unprepared for playing in the background while someone prays, and stumbled along with a poorly executed chord progression, or an out of place synthesizer sound, you know first-hand just how much the feeling we convey during a transition can impact these moments.

Your ability to transition from part to part and dynamic level to dynamic level in song is the exact same skillset here, but you're doubtless already comfortable practicing those kinds of transitions.

To grow here, then, take the exact same approach, but instead of building up the bridge of that latest worship single, practice building up and down under a prayer, scripture reading, or similar moment. If you need to, ask your spouse, bandmate, or your pastor to be a real-time practice partner!

As you practice and grow your sense of timing and touch, you'll be better able to guide the congregation through moments of reflection, prayer, and contemplation.

PIVOT!

Yes, I'm referencing that episode of Friends. If you want to truly become an expert at transitions, you'll need to master the art of the pivot. By definition, transitions will involve movement, from one song, moment, key, vibe, or whatever else to the next. And while things are in motion, sometimes you'll need to adjust course on the fly. As a keys player, you can practice this type of improvisation.

Establish a base progression or feel and then practice adapting your sounds, parts, and melodies in real-time as you feel inspired. You can even turn this practice into a time of personal worship and devotion and if you do, you'll likely find yourself better able to exercise this kind of flexibility the next time your worship leader or pastor is going in an unplanned direction.

SMOOTH LIKE BUTTER

I won't lie to you, while there's a lot to gain by mastering transitions, the stakes will feel high at times. The keys position can have an outsized impact on these moments' success, so devoting intentional effort and practice time to them will help you smooth out any wrinkles at home, instead of on Sunday morning.

Practice building bridges, elevating and diminishing dynamics, and pivoting on the fly whenever you practice your worship set at home, and introduce these concepts to the rest of your team as well.

The artistry and care you put into these little moments may not seem like much, but they each add up to a cohesive, intentional time of worship for you and your church community. Be encouraged that the effort you put in will make an impact, and you'll feel better equipped the next time you're asked to nail a difficult transition.

QUICK REFERENCE RELATIVE KEYS

Relative minor keys in music are significant because they provide a contrasting emotional and tonal quality to their corresponding major keys. While major keys often convey a sense of brightness and positivity, relative minor keys tend to evoke feelings of melancholy, introspection, and sometimes even a sense of mystery or drama. Musicians and composers use relative minor keys to add depth and variety to their compositions, creating a rich emotional tapestry within a piece of music.

One example of a gospel song that utilizes relative minor keys is "Amazing Grace." This iconic hymn is typically performed in the key of G major. However, during certain moments in the song, it transitions into the relative minor key of E minor. For instance, in the line "I once was lost, but now am found," the chord progression shifts to E minor, creating a moment of emotional intensity and introspection. This temporary modulation to the relative minor adds a touch of melancholy and emphasizes the contrast between darkness and redemption, which is a central theme in the lyrics of "Amazing Grace." The use of the relative minor key in "Amazing Grace" enhances the emotional depth of the song, making it a powerful and moving piece in the gospel music repertoire.

BUT WHAT IS THE RELATIVE MINOR SCALE?

Think of a major scale, for example, the C major scale. The C relative minor scale will be the A minor scale. As a rule, the relative minor scale of a major scale is the minor scale of the sixth degree of that tonality. Speaking like this seems confusing, but it is quite simple in practice. Since we were in C, the sixth degree is A, so just play A minor.

Well, as you can see, we are not learning any new scales here. This scale is nothing more than the natural minor scale we have seen; we are just creating a sixth degree link in relation to the first, and soon you will understand why.

If you take the C major scale and compare it with the A minor scale, you will see that they have exactly the same notes. That is, the major scale has a relative minor scale that is identical to it. Incredible, isn't it? That is why the denomination "relative" is used. Compare below, for example, the C major x A minor and G major x E minor scales:

C major scale: C, D, E, F, G, A, B
A minor scale: A, B, C, D, E, F, G
G major scale: G, A, B, C, D, E, F#
E minor scale: E, F#, G, A, B, C, D

This is extremely useful! It means that we can use the A minor scale to solo a song whose tonality is C major. That is, whenever we have a major tonality, we can think of two scales: the major scale of that tonality and the relative minor scale of that tonality. This increases our options when thinking about the solo.

THE RELATIVE MINOR CHORD

It is worth noting that this concept also exists for chords. The relative minor chord is the sixth degree chord of the major key in question. For example, the C relative minor chord is the sixth degree chord of the C major key, that is, Am (or Am7). Another example: suppose the tonality is G major. The relative minor of G will be Em (or Em7).

As the relative chords have an affinity with each other, they can be exchanged for one another. We will see this in more detail in the study of harmonic functions. For now, think about the scales, remember that you can always use the relative minor along with the major scale.

Amazing Grace (using the relative minor)

G G7 C G
Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound

G Em D7
That saved a wretch like me

G G7 C G
I once was lost, but now I'm found

Em D7 G
Was blind, but now I see.

Chord/ Scale	Relative Minor
C	Am
C#	A#m
D	Bm
D#	Cm
E	C#m
F	Dm
F#	D#m
G	Em
G#	Fm
A	F#m
A#	Gm
B	G#m

