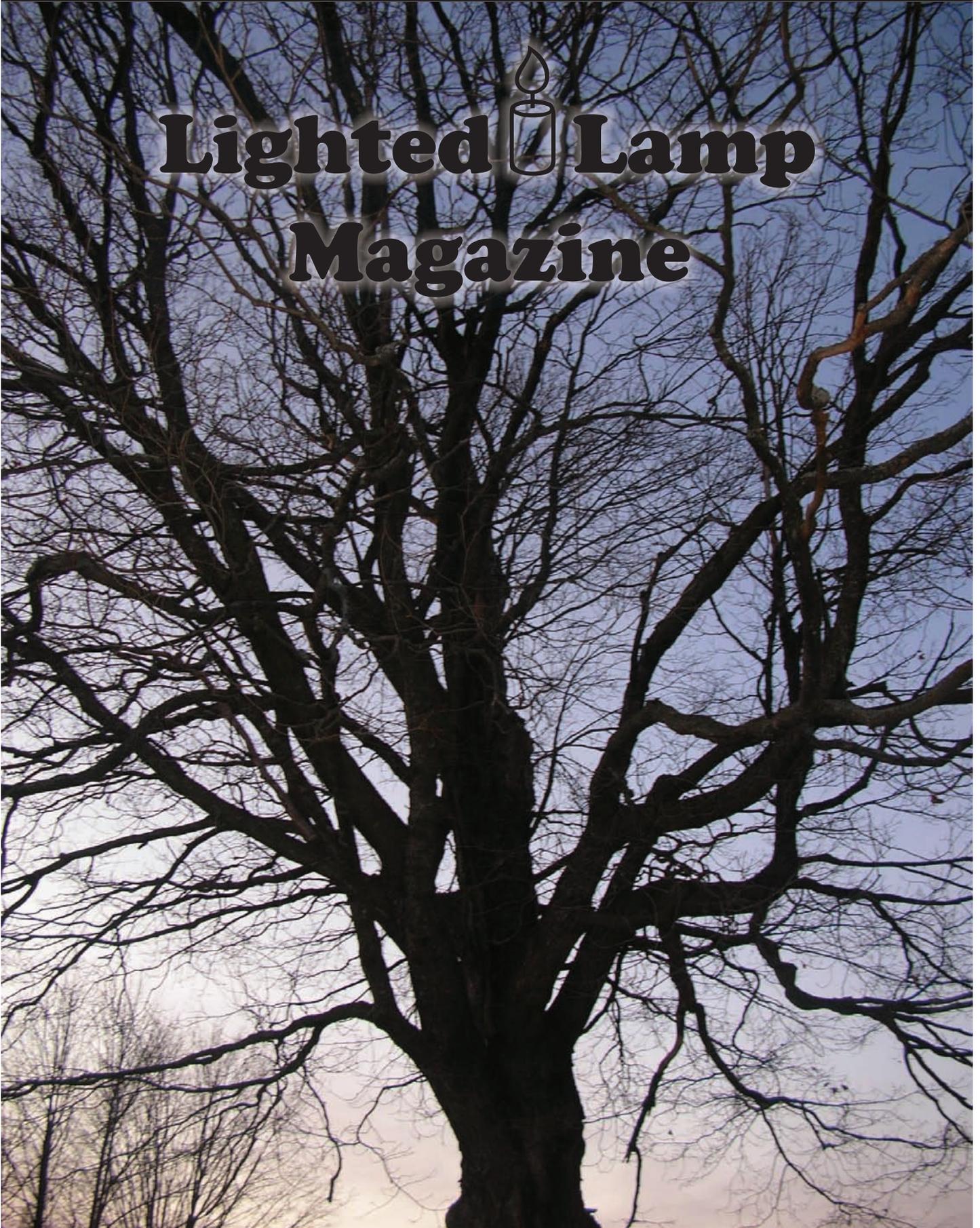


April 2012

# Lighted Lamp Magazine



# From the Editor

I want to share a verse that I've been thinking about a lot this past month: 1 Corinthians 6:12 (NKJV). It says, "All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any."

This verse points out that there are things that aren't mentioned in the Bible as being sin that we as Christians might choose not to engage in. When we make decisions, we should consider whether they are expedient, or as the NIV would say, beneficial. I often forget to ask questions like, "Does this bring me closer to Christ or distract me from Him?" and as a result end up spending time on eternally meaningless pursuits.

The second part of the verse talks about avoiding actions that take control of our lives. If reading or watching movies is consuming my thoughts, it is time to cut down on those activities. This is not to mention things that can cause addictions, and literally bring us under their control. Christians have given control of their lives to God, and nothing should take away that place as captain of our lives.

God bless,

*Priscilla*

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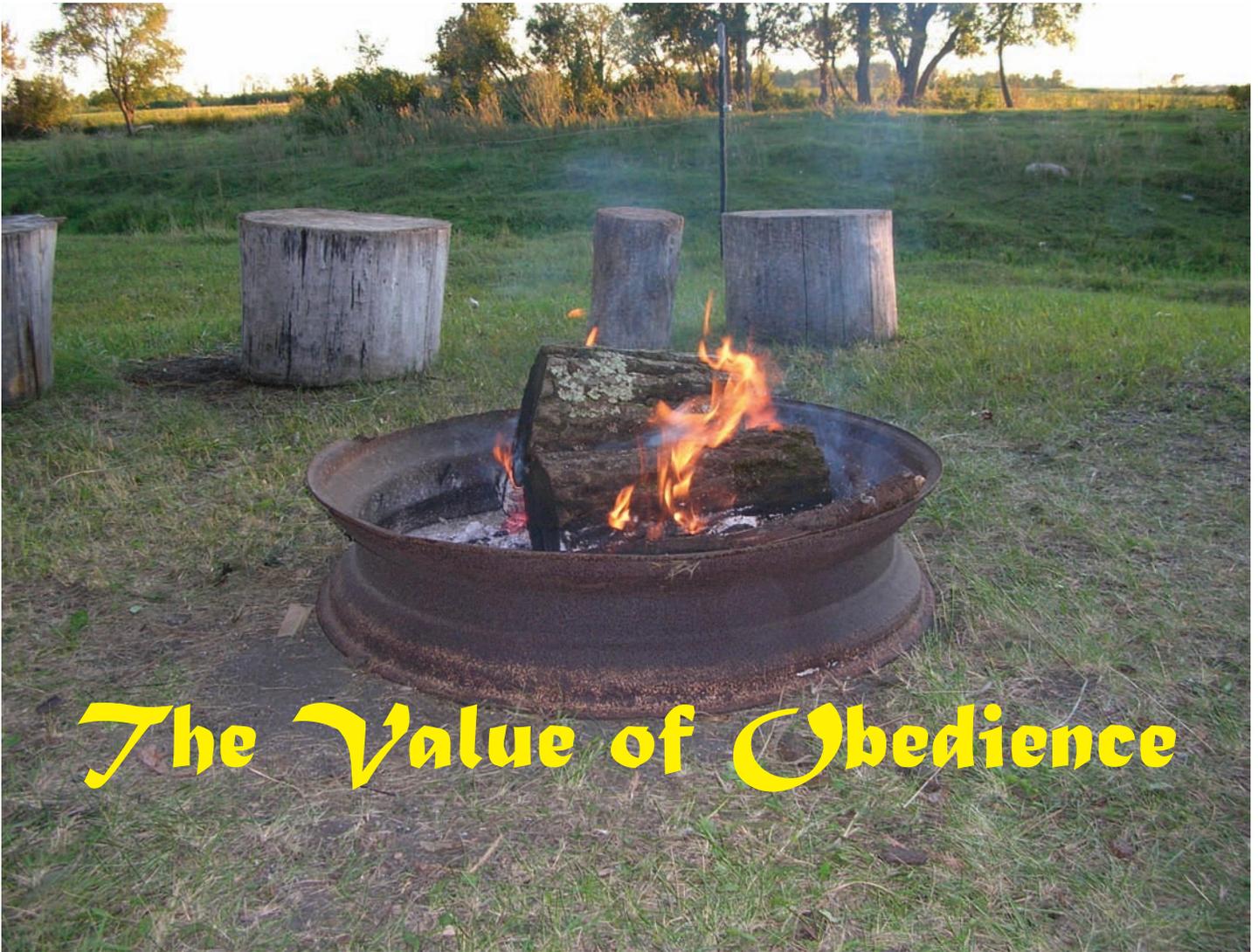
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# The Value of Obedience

*Photography by Jen Forsberg*

*by Leanne Nelson*

If we look around our society these days one thing is for sure: obedience is lacking, especially in teens. Whether it's drinking under age, going against a parent's wishes or not handing in assignments at school, disobedience is everywhere. Not only is it everywhere, but it seems to be expected of teenagers these days. But if we take a look at the Bible, obedience is something that God takes very seriously; in fact, He commands it of us. From the 10 commandments in Deuteronomy to the commandment to love your neighbor as yourself in Matthew, God has made it clear that He expects us to obey Him and the authorities that He has placed in our lives. This

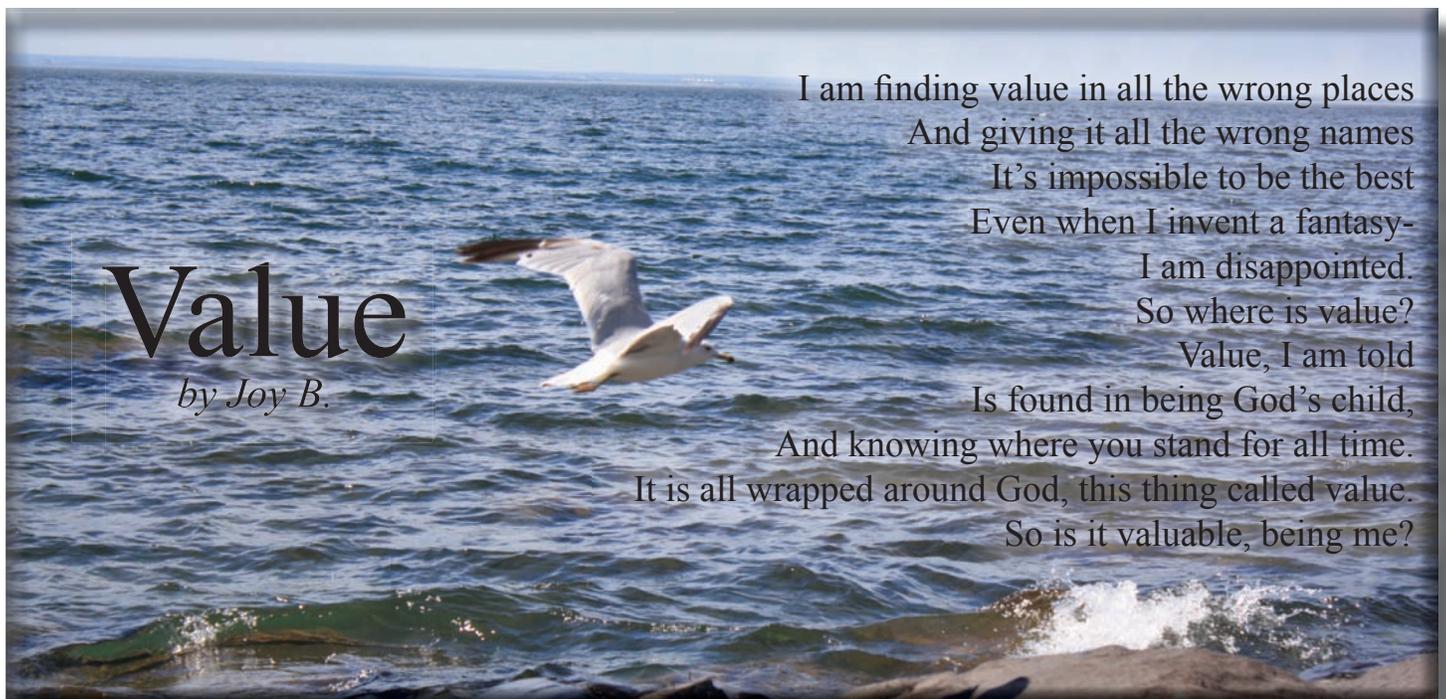
doesn't mean that God is a strict, cold God- in fact He is the opposite- it just means that obeying Him is the best path we can take. There are examples of this sprinkled throughout the pages of the Bible.

A prominent example of obedience in the Bible is the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, found in Daniel. King Nebuchadnezzar ordered everyone to bow down to a gold statue of himself that was 90 feet tall. If Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego had followed his orders nothing would have happened to them and nothing would have happened to change the hearts of those around them. In fact, if they had

bowed along with all the others people might have thought them frauds. They had said that they followed God but if they would quickly bow to a statue to save their own lives, how strong was their faith? In any case, the three men decided that it was more important to be obedient to God and not bow to any other then it was to save their own lives. They were cast into a fiery furnace so hot that the guards who threw them in died. The miracle that came out of this act of obedience was that the three survived. At the end of Daniel 3, King Nebuchadnezzar says: “Praise be to the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, who has sent his angel and rescued his servants! They trusted in him and defied the king’s command and were willing to give up their lives rather than serve or worship any god except their own God. Therefore I decree that the people of any nation or language who say anything against the God of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego be cut into pieces and their houses be turned into piles of rubble, for no other god can save in this way” (Daniel 3:28-29 NIV). If the three men had decided to go against God’s commandment they

might never have had the chance that they did to show how important their faith was to them. They might never have been able to witness to the King or the opportunity to show many people how strongly they felt about their God. Now that is not to say that you are to run out there and become martyrs for your faith. God may call you to do that, but to go and do that without being called by God is actually an act of disobedience. Although it may seem like that is what everyone else around you is doing, God calls you to obey Him and the plans that He has specifically for your life!

God calls us to obey Him every day of our lives. To completely obey Him is actually impossible, but with Him all things are possible. Deuteronomy 5:33 says: “Walk in obedience to all that the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live and prosper and prolong your days in the land that you will possess.” We are to walk in obedience with God so that we might have life. Without God there is no life and without obedience you are not following God. ☩



# Value

by Joy B.

I am finding value in all the wrong places  
And giving it all the wrong names  
It's impossible to be the best  
Even when I invent a fantasy-  
I am disappointed.  
So where is value?  
Value, I am told  
Is found in being God's child,  
And knowing where you stand for all time.  
It is all wrapped around God, this thing called value.  
So is it valuable, being me?



# The Joey Collins Christian Talk Radio Show

Whatever you do, do it to the glory of God.  
**1 Corinthians 10:31**

*An interview with Mitchell Silvius*

### **Describe your radio show.**

The show was a 10 to 20 minute online radio broadcast, with the purpose of edifying believers by preaching the full-orbed doctrine of the Bible. I geared the messages more to youth that are in their adolescent years, being that I was in my adolescent years as well.

### **How long did you broadcast the show?**

I broadcasted the show for about 11 months before I assumed the position of administrator of LiveSharp.org; which appropriately launched near the one year anniversary of the radio show.

### **Can you tell me a little about how you start-**

### **ed the radio show?**

It all started when I got back from my first Christian camp -- Peniel Bible Camp. During the week of camp I was assured of my salvation and from that point on, the Lord lit a fire within my heart to share His Word however I possibly could! Prior to camp, I was given numerous opportunities to share devotionals with my youth group which give me a taste of verbally communicating God's Word. As summer began to slip away, I called up my buddy and told him my plan, "So dude, the Lord just gave me this great idea, but I'll need your help!" He's like, "Well... What would that be?" "I want to host an online Christian radio show!" At first he was a bit spectacle, as this was a rather original, but

out-there idea. However, after a few more conversations I was able to convince him to give me a hand.

**What did you want people to get out of your messages?**

The topics varied week-to-week, but, my goal was always to encourage teens to pursue an active relationship with the Lord right now where they were in their adolescence because they had some incredibly fruitful years for the Lord ahead of them!

**How has doing the show helped you grow in your faith?**

The Lord used the radio show in so many positive ways in my life. The most dominant thing that He used the show for was nudging me along to constantly dig into His Word weekly for material! I praise the Lord that I'm homeschooled, otherwise I would have never been able to pursue the radio show at all!

**What is one obstacle you encountered in creating the show and how did you overcome it?**

One of the hardest things was probably hosting the shows live. If you mess up while you're on the clock, you can't take back what you said without really embarrassing yourself, so that was an obstacle at times. Another thing was occasional "loss of motivation" to keep the show going. I never got many views, so that wasn't going for me. But, with the support of my mother and brothers and sisters in Christ, and much prayer, the Lord gave me the strength to persevere!

**What was your favorite message that you gave and why?**

I felt so privileged to be able to communicate God's Word, I don't think I could pick a favor-

ite!

**Describe how you created an episode (How did you choose the topic? Did you write out what you're going to say ahead of time? Did you have to record somewhere where there's absolute silence?)**

At first I scripted everything. Being that the show was live I didn't want to draw a blank in the middle of the show. But, after a while I began to experiment with structured improvisation and eventually I used an outline.

For awhile I tried to keep with themes, but that's always so hard because I'd usually end up using all of my material up within a couple weeks! I was able to conduct 3 to 4 weeks of themed episodes for a couple series.

**What was the biggest thing you learned from doing the show?**

Always being open to the Lord's will for my life, because being in His will is the best place I could ever be!

**And what everyone has been curious about: If your real name is Mitchell Silvius, why did you call it the Joey Collins show?**

My real name is in fact Mitchell Silvius. I called it the Joey Collins show because I was always very fond of the name Joey Collins. I actually wrote a little Christian teen novel (which I regrettably was never able to complete) in which Joey Collins was the main character. The link for more details about that is posted below.

**Where can people find your radio show and your new blog?**

[www.TheJoeyCollinsShow.blogspot.com](http://www.TheJoeyCollinsShow.blogspot.com) and [LiveSharp.org](http://LiveSharp.org). ☺

## *Savannah's Lesson*



*Photography from Public-Domain-Photos.com*

*by Elizabeth Scherer*

On Sunday morning, Savannah came in from doing chores, gathered her Bible, notebook and pen for church then ran upstairs to get dressed, but she met her brother, once again bouncing on the bed. “Aaron please don’t jump on my bed,” said Savannah.

“Why? I like it,” replied Aaron in a testing voice to see what his sister’s reaction would be.

“Aaron, I can see that, but please. I am not going to ask you again before I get mom. Get off.” Aaron, just to be a push-the-envelope person, still kept bouncing, but was more cautious. “Aaron, obey me right now,” demanded Savannah.

“But it’s fun,” Aaron said.

“Aaron, off now!” Savannah’s anger was overwhelming up inside her, and she was ready to

grab him and walk into her mother's room and let him have what was coming to him.

Soon Aaron heard his dad's voice saying he was ready to go, so they ended up dropping the subject and racing to get dressed so their dad wouldn't leave them behind.

Meanwhile at church, Savannah's anger was getting red hot. Then the pastor started to talk about forgiveness. "Forgive your neighbor. Go on, don't just keep the anger and forget them and hate them the rest of your life. It might keep you going on the outside, but it will kill you on the inside."

Savannah started to listen, eager to hear, but another voice in her head said, "Oh yeah, I knew this would happen, he would talk about forgiving right when I came to church." Then she thought, "Listen and you might know what to do in how to handle this next time," so Savannah listened.

Soon church was over, and Savannah was in the car on the way home thinking about how to handle her brother bouncing on her bed or him always bugging her just so he could have attention.

Later that day Savannah thought and thought. She had never really thought about something that much in her life that was that important. She needed to know how to solve it.

Monday morning, Savannah was already up and doing her chores, happy and glad, but when we went up stairs to study there was little Aaron...yes, you guessed it, jumping on her bed. Savannah walked into the room and stood at the doorway. "Aaron, make sure when you're

done you make your bed, okay?" Usually, when Aaron woke up in the morning, he would hurry to her room before the door was shut to annoy her, but he was surprised at Savannah's actions. He expected that she was going to get upset, which would please him. When his sister just smiled and went to do her studying, he stopped bouncing.

Aaron thought, then said, "Savannah why aren't you yelling at me? You're different."

"Yes, I am. I'm also sorry for being so rude to you all the time instead of replacing that anger with love and forgiveness. Let's just say I learned something new."

"Yeah, God sure puts surprises into our lives, by giving us advice that actually works," said Aaron.

"Yes Aaron, you're right, and if you want we can go outside and play soccer when I'm done."

"Really? Great!" Aaron ran into his room.

Savannah smiled and gave a small chuckle. "Lord, thank you. You helped me overcome my upset voice to hear what the good voice had to say and do it. Help me to always use this for later and not forget it"!

Later that day Savannah and Aaron had the best time playing soccer. Savannah had never felt so happy before or light. She had always felt burdened and heavy when dealing with her brother, but she learned to "Fight the battle on your knees and you will WIN every time." ☺



# Imitators of God

*by Zachary Azzarito, featuring photography by Isaac Swanson*

Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children and walk in love, just as Christ also loved you and gave himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God as a fragrant aroma.

Paul is telling us that we should be imitators of God. Well, what does it mean to imitate someone?

1. To use or follow as a model.
- 2a. To copy the actions, appearance, mannerisms, or speech of; mimic

- 2b. To copy or use the style of
3. To copy exactly; reproduce.
4. To appear like; resemble.

Those are some definitions of what it means to imitate something or someone. Paul is calling us to do just that. To copy God, to resemble, to follow as a model, to reproduce. So what does that look like? How do we imitate God and walk in Love, just as Christ loved us? As we read on, Ephesians 5 gives us a good picture.



But immorality or any impurity or greed must not even be named among you, as is proper among saints

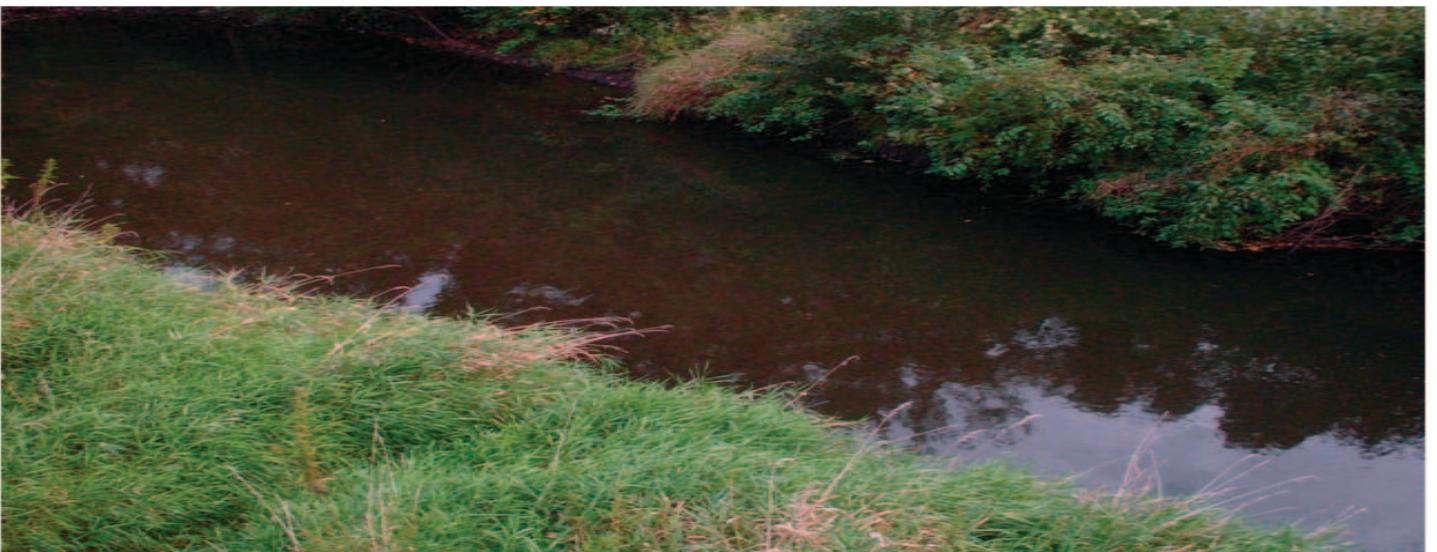
That verse packs quite a lot. Immorality, impurity and greed should even be named among you. That means there shouldn't be even the tiniest hint of that in your life.

Some of you may ask what do immorality and impurity mean. It's talking about sexual immorality and impurity. That is any sort of sexual act, thought or desire that is outside of marriage. That ranges from extreme things such as pornography and sex, to simple things such as

looking at someone in a lustful way. The Bible tells us that there shouldn't be even a hint of that in our lives. It's not easy, believe me, but with God all things are possible. Also...

No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

God will always be there to help you overcome temptation in your live and to help you become an imitator of Him.



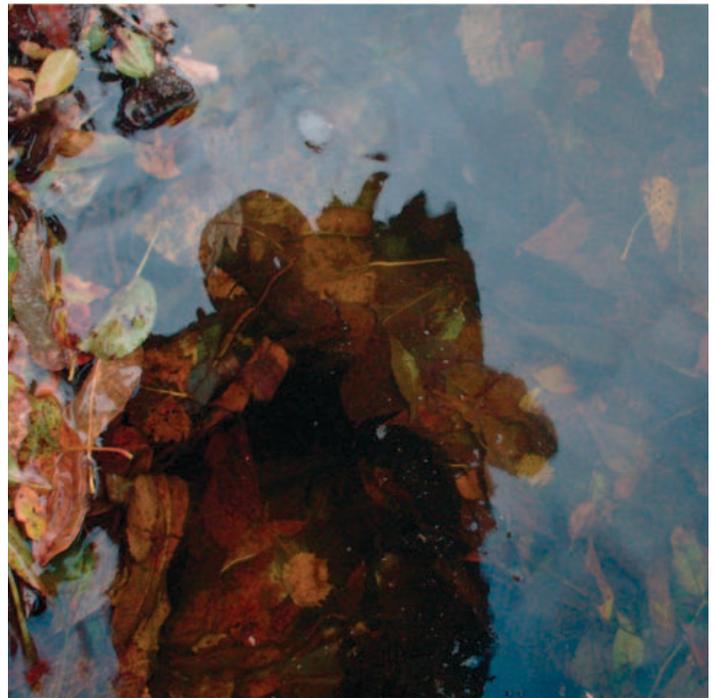
and there must be no filthiness and silly talk, or coarse jesting, which are not fitting, but rather giving of thanks.

Simple enough. We shouldn't be mean to others, tear them down or joke about things that don't glorify God. Rather, we should build people up and to give thanks in everything.

For this you know with certainty, that no immoral or impure person or covetous man, who is an idolater, has an inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.

Just as this verse says, people who deliberately practice those things don't have an inheritance in the Kingdom of God. That doesn't mean those that are trying to overcome it.

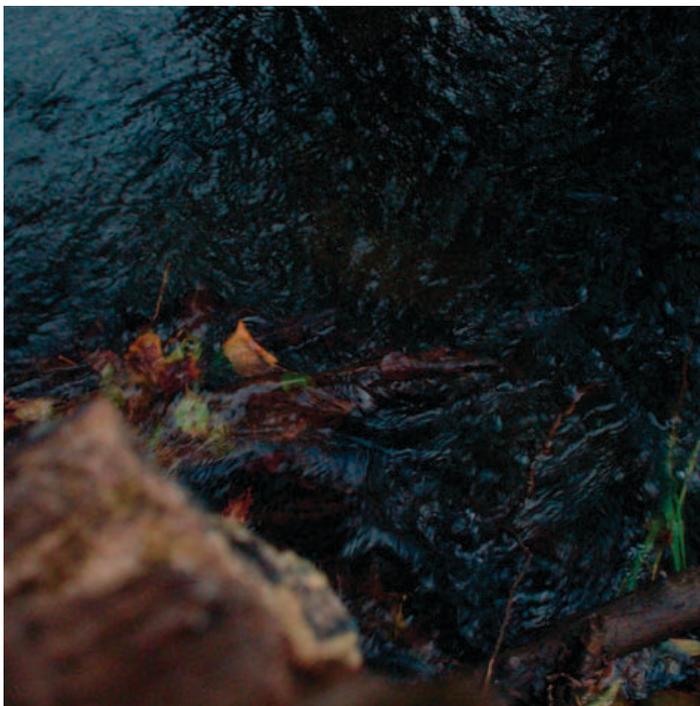
Let's use a young teenage boy by the name of Joesph for an example. Joesph, at an early age, became addicted to pornography and was deep into lust. He looked at girls as objects, not as human beings. He also didn't know Christ. He was one of those people that didn't have an inheri-



ance in the Kingdom of God. That is, until he accepted Christ as his Savior. God changed his life around and now he is trying to live a life for God's glory, but he still messes up sometimes in the lust area. Does that mean he doesn't have an inheritance? No, we're all human, which means that we are going to mess up. What God is looking at is your heart and whether you're trying to glorify Him or continue in the flesh.

Therefore do not be partakers with them; for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and righteousness and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

Therefore, don't be partakers with them. If we want to be imitators of God and live for Him, we can't join in practicing the things of this world and being immoral/impure people. Rather we have to walk in the light and strive to learn what pleases God. Our good works come from the Fruit which the Spirit of God produces in us. So walk in Spirit, not in the flesh.





Do not participate in the unfruitful deeds of darkness, but instead even expose them; for it is disgraceful even to speak of the things which are done by them in secret. But all things become visible when they are exposed by the light, for everything that becomes visible is light.

For this reason it says,  
"Awake, sleeper,  
And arise from the dead,  
And Christ will shine on you."

Everything that we do will one day be exposed before God Almighty. Ever thing we hide in the closet or throw under the bed. It's all going to be exposed before the Light of the Lord. That is why Paul encourages us to not participate in those unfruitful deeds. That don't help us to become an imitator of Christ. But rather, they are what keep us spiritually dead and sleep. We want Christ to shine on us, and reflect the things we have selflessly done for God and not the selfish acts we have done for ourselves. Be an imitator God.

Therefore be careful how you walk, not as un-

wise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil. So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is dissipation, but be filled with the Spirit, speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord; always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God, even the Father; and be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.

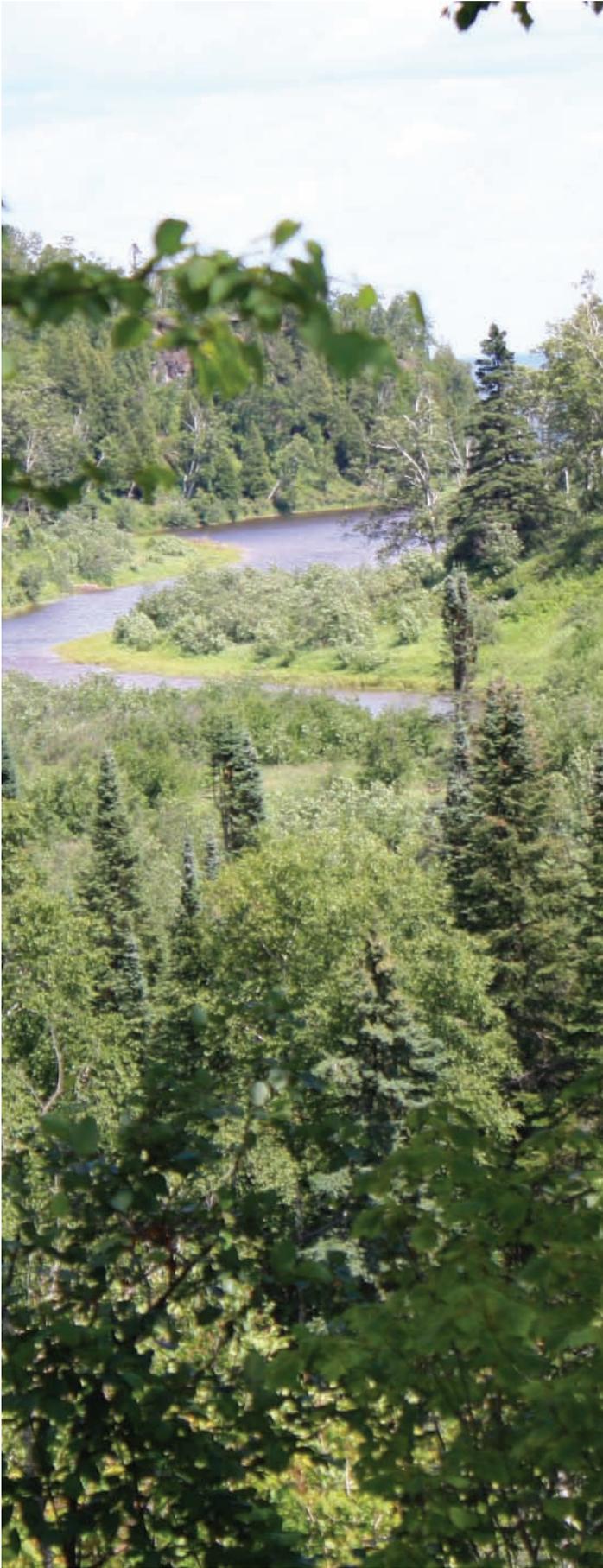
As we've been told before, life is but a vapor. Thus we need to make most of the time God has given us on this planet and to glorify Him while we are. Be careful what you do so that you don't dishonor God. Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs. Praising God for everything that He has done in our lives and joining together with our brothers and sisters of Christ to do that. As it is said throughout the New Testament, in everything give thanks. There is always something you can be thankful for.



Let's recap on this. God calls us to imitate Him, or to copy/resemble Him. We do that by walking in love and honoring God with our lives. If we want to imitate God, we have to remove ever hint of sexual immorality and impurity. Our speech should be used to praise Him and build others up, not tearing them down. People that don't live a life for Christ won't have an inheritance in the Kingdom of God. Just because we mess up doesn't make us lose our inheritance, we have to strive to do better next time and remember to focus on Christ. Everything we do will be exposed someday, so let our works be ones that honor God. Finally, live our lives focused on Christ, giving thanks in everything, and striving to understand the will of God.

Therefore be imitators of God. ☪





# Giving My Praise

by *Nicole Garcia*, photography by *Priscilla*

I want to add my praise  
To the song that arises  
From these grasses green  
Rippling under sun, glistening praises  
To raise my joy  
To Your High Throne  
In that clear, sharp blue sky  
Strong, over mountainous stone  
To dance through boughs  
Of forests unnumbered  
Ancient yet young  
Beloved and remembered.  
They shout Your praises  
Boughs clap their hands  
The wind sings you sonnets  
Your creation acknowledges Your  
Almighty Name  
They shout, in United Voice  
I join, without embarrassed shame!  
The oceans roar  
Reaching to Your Heaven  
Mountains stand tall  
Proclaiming Your strength  
That never shall fall.  
The sun burns like flame  
Millions of miles away.  
Galaxies, galaxies away  
Though unseen, shout Your praises  
All the same!  
I join my voice to them  
Almighty Creator  
Lord of All  
Heavenly Protector  
You're my God, my Lord  
Before You I bow,  
Forever, I'll pledge, I'll follow You  
Even when the World comes crashing down. ॐ



## Paul's Prayer

### Philippians 1:3-11 (NKJV)

I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ; just as it is right for me to think this of you all, because I have you in my heart, inasmuch as both in my chains and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel, you all are partakers with me of grace. For God is my witness, how greatly I long for you all with the affection of Jesus Christ. And this I pray, that your love may abound still more and more in knowledge and all discernment, that you may approve the things that are excellent, that you may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ, being filled with the fruits of righteousness which are by Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

I used to gloss over the prayers in the Pauline

letters, trying to get to the substance of the message the letters contained. I treated them like I did the lists of names in the Bible, important for historical reasons, but not too relevant. Then I realized that they contain great suggestions to use for praying for people.

When I am praying for people, I often can't think of specific requests unless I have talked to them recently and know what is going on in their lives. I want to pray for them, but I don't know what to pray about. In fact, unless I have something specific in mind, I often forget to pray for people altogether. This prayer of Paul's has been a good example to me.

Paul says at the beginning of verse 3 that he thanks God whenever he remembers the Philippians. We might not remember to pray for everyone during our devotion time, but when we see them during the day and think of them, we can pray right at that moment. Psalm 55:17 says, "Evening and morning and at noon I will

pray, and cry aloud, And He shall hear my voice.” God hears us at any time and situation, even if it’s only a brief prayer.

When was the last time you thanked God for someone? It’s easy to get so caught up in making requests for people that we forget to thank God for them. Paul, on the other hand, thanked God every time he remembered the Philippians. He recognized God’s blessing in putting them in his life.

Paul also prayed for the Philippians with joy and confidence. He knew how God had worked in their lives in the past, and He wanted them to grow closer to God. I think it is significant that during a time when Paul was in prison for his faith that he did not mention prayers for their safety, but for their Christian growth. With the abundance of physical needs people have, their spiritual growth can often be neglected in our prayers for them, but that doesn’t make it any less important. In fact, our relationship with God is the most significant part of our lives.

Paul didn’t stop with a general prayer for the spiritual growth of the Philippians, but made several specific requests. He prayed that they would love more with knowledge and discernment. Paul wanted them to love others with God’s love, but he also wanted them to not be taken in by pretenders.

Next Paul prayed that the Philippians would approve the things that are excellent. We encounter a similar problem today. There are so many things, both good and evil, that we are exposed to every day, and we have to make decisions about which of those things we will allow in our lives. There is nothing I would rather have prayed for me than that I would approve the ex-

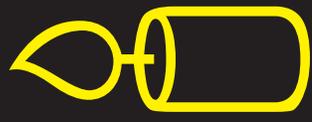
cellent ones and avoid the bad.

Paul prayed that the Philippians would be sincere and without offense until the day of Christ. This sounds like a complicated prayer, but basically he prayed that they would follow God with their whole hearts and not fall into sin.

Last, Paul prayed that the Philippians would be filled with the fruits of righteousness and bring glory and praise to God. He wanted them to have opportunities to act out their faith.

When I discovered this prayer, it helped me to pray more intelligently and effectively for people. There are a few other prayers like it in the other letter portions of the Bible. You can find a couple of them in Romans 1:8-12 and Colossians 1:3-12.

Not only does prayer have an effect on God’s working in the lives of those we pray for, but it also affects our lives. If we pray for a friend to get well, we will tend to ask how they are feeling, but if we are also thanking God for that friend, we might make more time to spend with that person. If we are praying for our friend’s spiritual growth, we might remember to share a good book or song with him or her. Titus 3:16-17 says that “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.” Using this prayer is a great way to be equipped. ☺



# LL Magazine

Matthew 5:16