

February 2012

**Lighted  Lamp
Magazine**



From the Editor

In John 10, Jesus tells us that He is the good shepherd. Thieves and hirelings would destroy or abandon the sheep, but the good shepherd takes care of them and gives his life for them.

This pattern is true of the world around us. There are many religions and philosophies vying for our loyalty. The world claims that they are just as good as Christianity. After all, not all people think alike. But when you look at the result of those other worldviews, they destroy or abandon the people who truly believe in them.

Back in Elijah's day, the prophets of Baal needed their god to send down fire to burn their sacrifice. They prayed with all their might for a long time, but nothing happened. Their god had abandoned them. Solomon lived by the philosophy of doing whatever he wanted. That's not a religion, but it is a way of living that many people chose then and still choose now. Yet the way he lived destroyed his relationship with God and the unity of the nation of Israel.

Praise God that Jesus is the good shepherd! When we follow Him, we can be sure of His love and care for us. He will never leave or forsake us.

God bless,

Priscilla

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Hannah's Praise

“How shall I feel at the judgment, if multitudes of missed opportunities pass before me in full review, and all my excuses prove to be disguises of my cowardice and pride?”
—Dr. W. E. Sangster



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Reliance on the Spirit



Photography by Katie Prescott

by Zachary Azzarito

High school is a huge transition for us. We move out of the hand holding stages of middle school, and into becoming young adults eventually graduating and moving out into the world. All of this happens in a period of 4 years. It's a lot to take on, and we're going to make mistakes. It's just like the old saying, "We're only human", and it's right, we are only human and being human comes with that natural ability to make mistakes. That is why we simply can't do it on our own, and still live a Godly life that honors our Lord. The thing is, God knows. He isn't going to sit up in Heaven and watch us struggle through life; He wants to help us succeed and glorify Him. Psalms 121:1-2, "I lift my eyes unto the hills, where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of Heaven and earth." It's reassuring that God is here to help us, and He does that through the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8).

So let's take a look at the Holy Spirit, God's way of helping us. In a book by Frances Chan, called "Forgotten God" there is a chapter called Theology of the Holy Spirit 101 which takes a look at the Holy Spirit. We'll take a look at some of the points that Chan makes. The Holy Spirit is God. Then Peter said, "Ananias, how is it that Satan has so filled your heart that you have lied to the Holy Spirit and have kept for yourself some of the money you received for the land? 4 Didn't it belong to you before it was sold? And after it was sold, wasn't the money at your disposal? What made you think of doing such a thing? You have not lied just to human beings but to God." The terms God and Holy Spirit are used interchangeably, showing that the Holy Spirit is God.

The Holy Spirit is our Counselor. "16 And I will ask the Father, and He will give you an-

other Counselor to be with you forever." Jesus was talking to the disciples in John 14:16, when He was telling them that eventually He would die and go to be at the right hand of the Throne of God. But He tells us that God will send a Counselor that will be with us forever, to guide us, and to watch over us through life.

The Holy Spirit knows God. "10 For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. 11 For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God." 1 Corinthians 2:10-12

The Holy Spirit prays for us." 27 And He who searches the hearts knows the Spirit's mind-set, because He intercedes for the saints according to the will of God." It's amazing to know that the Holy Spirit, one of the Trinity and God, prays for us because as it says an early verse, we don't know how to pray adequately.

This is just scratching the surface of the awesomeness of the Holy Spirit. The beauty of it all is that we can take part of it. Matter of fact, the bible says that the Holy Spirit dwells in us. With all the flaws and mistakes we have made, why wouldn't we want to rely on the amazing power of God?

We run into a lot of stuff, grades, stress, temptation, peer pressure, etc. But despite all of these things, Jesus says in 2 Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness. " When we are to weak,

like we always are, that is when God is strong. That is really amazing to know. So when we are weak, we have to rely on the Spirit.

"Walk in the Spirit and you will not fulfill the desire of the flesh." Galatians 5:16. When we walk in the Spirit, relying on Him, then we honor God with our lives and lead a Godly life. Well, what does walking in the Spirit look like? Simply living life for God. Getting into the Word, praying and daily putting on the Armor of God (Armor of God can be found in Ephesians 6:10-18). When we don't, we get into all kinds of sins, like it shows in Galatians 5:19-21, just a few verses after the one about walking in the Spirit. However, when we do walk in the Spirit, put on the full armor of God and rely on the Holy Spirit, we display the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self-control (Galatians 5:22-23). Walking in the Spirit can lead us to do awesome things, things that will change the world, just like Brooke did.

Brooke Bronkowski was a young 14 year old girl who was completely in love with Jesus. In middle school, she started a bible study on her school campus and she used her babysitting money on bibles that she could give out to all of her unsaved friends. She was truly in awe and love with God. During her freshmen year in high school, Brooke was in a car accident while going to the movies. Her life ended when she was just 14, but her legacy of Christ certainly didn't. Almost 1500 people attended Brooke's memorial service where people from her high school read poems about her love of God. Everyone talked about her joy and her example. The pastor shared the gospel and invited

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Which Major or Minor Prophet are You Most Like?

Photography by Isaac Swanson

1. You often find yourself

- A. Surrounded by those who have been living ungodly lives. [Go to #2](#)
- B. Surrounded by Christians who are straying from their faith. [Go to #3](#)
- C. Encouraging Christians to act for God. [Go to #4](#)

2. Do you have non-Christian teachers or classmates who hassle you about your faith?

- A. Yes. [Go to #5](#)
- B. No. [Go to #6](#)

3. Do you notice religious leaders leading people astray or ignoring people's needs?

- A. Yes. [Go to #8](#)
- B. No. [Go to #9](#)

4. You encourage others by

- A. Living for God even when others don't. [Go to #6](#)
- B. Encouraging others to join together to serve God. [Go to #7](#)

5. You are concerned that people are

- A. living wicked lives regardless of God's laws. [Go to #26](#)
- B. proud and think that they aren't accountable to God. [Go to #27](#)

6. You often wonder

- A. why God gives those who live horrible lives a chance to repent. [Go to #23](#)
- B. why God uses the wicked to punish people

more righteous than they. [Go to #17](#)

C. how you can live for God despite the circumstances. [Go to #15](#)

7. You wish people would realize that

- A. God's presence and blessing is with those who serve Him. [Go to #28](#)
- B. The difficulties they are experiencing are caused by their neglect of God. [Go to #18](#)

8. Do you see wicked people being admired by others?

- A. Yes. [Go to #24](#)
- B. No. [Go to #10](#)

9. You are concerned

- A. that people will not repent in time to prevent disaster. [Go to #11](#)
- B. that people don't admit that what they're doing is wrong. [Go to #12](#)
- C. when you see sin in the world, but trust in God's deliverance of those who love Him. [Go to #13](#)

10. How do you deal with corruption around you?

- A. Wait on God and trust in His protection. [Go to #25](#)
- B. Warn others about what God has said. [Go to #16](#)

11. When faced with God's judgement against sin you

- A. cry for those who are suffering and pray that

God will bring them back to Him. **Go to #21**

B. Pray that God will be merciful. **Go to #14**

12. It bothers you most when people

A. think that God won't judge them for their sin. **Go to #29**

B. pretend that evil is good and good is evil. **Go to #20**

C. are unfaithful to God even though He has been faithful and merciful to them. **Go to #19**

13. You are optimistic because

A. of God's salvation, even when things aren't going well for you. **Go to #17**

B. God blesses those who turn back to Him. **Go to #22**

14. Amos

15. Daniel

16. Ezekiel

17. Habakkuk

18. Haggai

19. Hosea

20. Isaiah

21. Jeremiah

22. Joel

23. Jonah

24. Malachi

25. Micah

26. Nahum

27. Obadiah

28. Zechariah

29. Zephaniah

Spirit Cont.

those who wanted to be saved to come forward. There was over 200 students on their knees praying. Ushers handed them each a bible, the same bibles that were in Brooke's garage for all her friends. In one day, Brooke lead more people to the Lord than most will in a lifetime, all because of her faith and her willingness to rely on God.

The same Spirit who lead Paul to preach to the known world of that time, who opened up the Red Sea to save Moses and the Israelites, the same Spirit who created all the earth...is the same Spirit that we have been given to us as be-

lievers. So, will we continue to go through life relying on our own strength, just going through the motions? Or will we, like Brooke, Paul and some many others, rely on the Holy Spirit to do amazing, world changing things for God? ☺



Photography from public-domain-image.com

by Kaitlyn Caffrey

There stands a giant in our world today that is far greater than Goliath ever was and that wreaks more havoc than both world wars were capable of. At any given time, half of the entire world's hospital beds are filled with its victims. This giant does not spare children, does not spare mothers, and does not spare fathers. Every single day 4,320 children fall victim to his merciless hand. Every year 3.5 million people are slain, unable to escape this massive evil. The number of murders he commits every year is the equivalent of a jumbo jet crashing every 4 hours, every day, for an entire year. Innumerable innocent lives are taken daily, yet few of us even knew this giant existed.

The giant causes so many other problems, not just death. Because of him, children are forced to walk miles every day working for him. This causes them to miss school and forfeit a proper education, which seriously hinders their ability to be productive citizens; not only hurting them and their families, but also their economies. Mothers have become his slaves, for they can't live with him and can't live without him—they are trapped. As you can see, this monster has a much greater impact than most of us would ever realize just looking at its murder case files. Who is this Goliath? How have we let him get away with so many crimes, murders, and en-

slavements? And most importantly what are we going to do about it? Are we going to just sit back and let him continue to slay the innocent; to enslave mothers and fathers across our globe?

Allow me to introduce the guilty party, the criminal: the giant is the lack of clean, safe water. That's right, 1 in every 8 people do not have access to clean, safe water. That's 884 million! If you have not begun to see what a massive, negative impact this behemoth has, and to understand the need to do something about it, here are a few more mind-blowing, heart-breaking facts. An American who takes a five minute shower uses more water than one of these 884 million victims do in an entire day, and theirs is dirty and infested! On top of all that has already been shared about this immense problem, every 20 seconds a child dies from a preventable water related illness. This is a real issue, and a real giant.

So what can we do about such a massive problem? First we need to realize that our God is bigger than it, and that with Him nothing is impossible; absolutely nothing. I strongly believe that with and through God, this giant of lack of clean water can, and will be eliminated. This

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Ask Olivia

**Dear Olivia,
When I am alone, I have no trouble praying,
but when I am asked to pray in public I can't
think of what to say. Can you help me?**

Silent

Dear Silent,
I know exactly what you're going through because I was there not too long ago. I'm not a shy person; I just never could find the right words to say. People would always give me advice like "You're just talking to God, open up." But whenever it was my turn to pray, my mind would go blank. Not too long ago, I was faced with the opportunity to act on my faith, and with that opportunity came the responsibility to pray out loud—sometimes one on one, sometimes in front of a group of people. The first few times, I was scared to death, but the more I did it the more comfortable I became. As I stepped out on the branch of my faith and tested my little wings, God gave me the wind to fly. 1 John 4:4 (NLT) says, "But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over these people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world." Remember that the God who lives in you will help you overcome the obstacles that you face in this life. First, though, you must let Him.

Olivia

**Dear Olivia,
I have friends who aren't Christians. They
do some things that I don't believe in. How
can I show them that I care about them even**

though I disagree with their actions?

Confused

Dear Confused,
Sin is sin. Romans 6:23 (NLT) even goes as far to say that "the wages of sin is death." In other words, whether you agree with your friends' actions or not does not make them right or wrong. They are not sinning against you, they are sinning against Him. Once you realize that, it will make it easier for you to see that their problems are between them and God. However, as Jesus says in Matthew 22:39 (NLT), "A second (commandment) is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" Next to loving God, loving other people is the most important thing for us to do. So how do you bridge the gap? I think the perfect example is that of Christ. He came to this earth and loved continually, whether we deserved it or not. He didn't agree with our actions, but He lovingly encouraged us to change. Love them and encourage them, just be careful not to let them influence you.

Olivia

Do you have a question for Olivia? Email it to priscilla.carsten@gmail.com with "Ask Olivia" in the subject line.



A Worthwhile Day

Photography by Rebekah M.

by Nicole Garcia

I need a purpose
I can't keep sitting here
I need something
To make a full today.
Every time I look out the window
I see the world moving on by
While I sit here listless
Feeling left behind.
A day is nothing
But the passing of light
With eating, maybe working
Or maybe reading a book before
The coming of the night.
But each time I look out the window
I feel trapped inside
No purpose, no mission
No sense of reward
When the day is done.

I feel like a crazed animal
Remembering sunlit days,
When I felt every day
Was an adventure
And I made the world my play.
Back then everything felt so alive
I'd lift my face to the sky
And drink in the sunshine...
Yet now just living day by day
Unsure where I'm going
Unsure if anything's coming my way.
My prayer is that I feel a purpose
A feeling that I'm doing
Something of worth,
That will shine one day;
And a feeling of actually living
Not just moving in a dream,
Like a common day-to-day machine. ☺

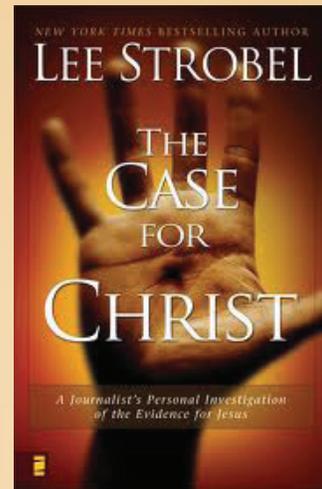
Book Review: The Case for Christ

Has anyone asked you how you know that the Bible is true? How you can accept the idea that a loving God would let people go to hell? How you can be certain that Jesus really died on the cross and rose from the dead? If so, this is the book for you.

Lee Strobel is a journalist who used to believe that God didn't exist, but when his wife became a Christian, and he noticed that her life changed for the better, he began to investigate whether there might be some truth to the Christian faith.

By interviewing experts, Strobel learned about the accuracy of the Bible when it was written, whether it had been accurately preserved, whether Jesus really was who He claimed to be, and whether medical and archeological evidence support the Bible's account. In all cases, he found that Jesus was indeed the Son of God and the Bible is true.

As well as addressing the historical aspects of Jesus' life, Strobel looked into questions brought up within the church.



One of the ones that I found interesting was whether Jesus had actually said the things the Bible claims he did.

This book has answers to the major doubts that non-Christians commonly have about Jesus and that Christians wonder about in the back of their minds how things could have happened that way. Even for people who are solid in their faith, *The Case For Christ* shows God's plan in a new way. 🙏



Hannah's Praise

I Samuel 2:1-10 (NKJV)

And Hannah prayed and said: "My heart rejoices in the LORD; My horn is exalted in the LORD. I smile at my enemies, Because I rejoice in Your salvation. No one is holy like the LORD, For there is none besides You, Nor is there any rock like our God. Talk no more so very proudly; Let no arrogance come from your mouth, For the LORD is the God of knowledge; And by His actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty men are broken, And those who stumbled are girded with strength. Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, And the hungry have ceased to hunger. Even the barren has borne seven, And she who has many children has become feeble. The LORD kills and makes alive; He brings down to the grave and brings up. The LORD makes poor and makes rich; He brings low and lifts up. He raises the poor from the dust And lifts the beggar from the ash heap, To set them among princes And make them inherit the throne of glory. For the pillars of the earth are the LORD's, And He has set the world

upon them. He will guard the feet of His saints, But the wicked shall be silent in darkness. For by strength no man shall prevail. The adversaries of the LORD shall be broken in pieces; From heaven He will thunder against them. The LORD will judge the ends of the earth. He will give strength to His king, And exalt the horn of His anointed."

Hannah prayed this prayer when she brought Samuel to Eli, the priest. She had prayed for a child, and God had answered her prayer by giving her Samuel. In return, Hannah was giving him back to God to serve Him in God's house.

Hannah's prayer reflected her understanding that God is in control. She talked about the mighty, the full, and people with lots of children experiencing disaster and the stumbling, the hungry, and the barren being satisfied. Hannah knew that the strength and situation of a person didn't guarantee anything. Good athletes can get in accidents and lose their abilities. Rich

people can make bad investments and lose their money. Only God has the power to control the events in human lives.

Hannah also recognized God's care for His people. She had been unable to have children and now God had blessed her with a son. In the last verses of her prayer, she said that God will "guard the feet of His saints". In any difficult situation, He is with us, ready to help us.

Hannah had tested her faith by praying for a son, and leaving her situation in God's hands. She also showed her love for God and desire for her son to serve God.

When God answered Hannah's prayer, she responded by praising Him. It would have been easy for her to think, "It would have happened anyway," but instead she gave Him the credit He deserved.

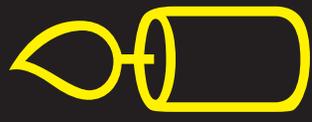
God wants what's best for us and He has power over all of our circumstances. Often, when we need or want something important, we let ourselves get worried about it, but instead of worrying we should be more like Hannah and present our request to God. As Philippians 4:6 (NKJV) says, "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your request be made known to God". ☺

Giant Cont.

faith and this issue calls for action.

God has called us to be giant-slayers for Him; to be His hands and feet in this hurting world. Just as God used David to take down Goliath, He wants to use us to rid the world of the giant of lack of clean water. My friends and I at The Collision Project (www.thecollisionproject.org) have decided to step up and face "Goliath" with God on our side. We have recently partnered with a group called The Last Well (www.thelastwell.org). Headed by Mr. Todd Philips, this ministry is centered in the African country of Liberia. Right now, through God, they are making some incredible progress! This organization focuses on digging wells and also on bringing the good news of the Living Water to these suffering people. According to their last release of numbers, The Last Well has reached 112,544 Liberians with clean water and the good news of Jesus Christ. 107 wells have been drilled! However, there is still much work to be done. 1.4 million Liberians still need clean water.

If you would like to join forces with us in this fight to save lives, you can first pray for God to use us as we step into this problem. Second, we encourage you to take action. Donations can be made online at either one of the web addresses listed above. Thank you, thank you, thank you, for helping to change the world by giving the life-saving gift of clean water to those who so desperately need it, and for being willing to be David, to be used by God to slay this modern-day Goliath. ☺



LL Magazine

Matthew 5:16