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Lighted Lamp Magazine



From the Editor

When the Isrealites had left Egypt and were journeying through the wilderness, they began to complain and doubt God's provision. They worried about lacking food and water and accused Moses of leading them out into the wilderness and die. They refused to enter the Promised Land out of fear.

When I read things like this, I often think that the people were crazy to act like that. Just a few chapters earlier, God had used miraculous plagues to convince pharaoh to let them leave Egypt, and He had parted the Red Sea and let them walk through on dry land. And even when they complained, God provided food and water for them in the wilderness. How could they forget all that and not put their confidence in Him to enter the Promised Land?

Then I think of my own life. When I have too much homework or wonder what the future holds, I don't trust God either. No, I haven't walked through the Red Sea, but I have walked through other uncertain situations and have seen how God worked for good in those situations. Just like He provided for the Isrealites, and just like He has provided for each of us in the past, He will continue to provide for us now, no matter what we are facing. All we have to do is trust Him.

God bless,

Priscilla

Contents

Articles

4 Christian Service

How and why we act out our faith by serving others.

10 Don't Hesitate

Five things that can keep us from sharing God's message and why they shouldn't.

8 FaithFacts

An interview with Olivia Bachelor.

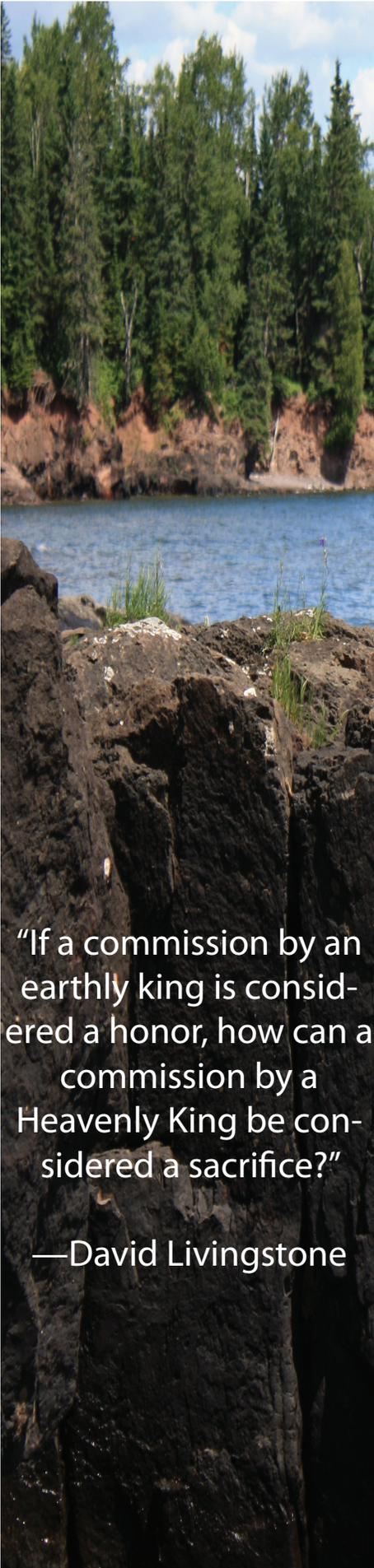
Fiction

6 The Writers of God

Poetry

12 Don't Worry About It

15 Broken Dreams



“If a commission by an earthly king is considered a honor, how can a commission by a Heavenly King be considered a sacrifice?”

—David Livingstone



Photography by Katie Prescott

Departments

13 Quiz

How Well Do You Know the Kings of Isreal and Judah?

14 Praying Hands

David's Request

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Photography by Jen Forsberg

by Lillian

As Christians, we are to be ‘good’ people. But, what does that mean? Doing good deeds. Not because we are told to or we know it is our jobs, but because we want to and we see the need put before us by God. Some think there is not a need to address that is ‘big enough to matter to God.’ This is not true. And some people of the world know Christians are supposed to be good but for one reason or another, don’t see it in the Christians around them, declaring the church to be a hypocrite. As Christians of the End Times, we need to fix this.

There is a sign in my church’s kitchen at I ab-

solutely love. It reads, “If I have no desire to serve others, I should question whether or not Christ is in my life.” There was a time I did not want anything to do with anyone else, therefore I didn’t help anyone. But after some long tribulation in my life, my relationship with Jesus began to strengthen. Soon enough, I realized I had a sudden desire to help everyone I see, in any way possible. After I received the Holy Spirit, I began to notice needs even before anyone else did. For example, if someone was hiding something, a broken heart or the fact that they are sick, I noticed when no one else. Sometimes Jesus tells me to check up on people, and sure enough something is bothering them.

Not feeling the hunger to serve others? Well here is what I suggest: Strengthen your relationship with Christ. And the only way to do this is to read your Bible, pray, and go to church. Don't go out and start to do good deeds just because you know you should. If you do, really the deeds fall flat and you don't get the same reward in the end. As I was saying, after your relationship with Christ strengthens, you will begin to change: "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation. The old has gone, the new is here!" (2 Corinthians 5:17 NIV) And after your relationship gets better, you will develop a longing to help others, not

go out there and be good to people! No action is too small! From complementing their style to helping them up when they fall, it will really help them out.

Still can't find a way to help others? There are two ways to fix this, and it's best to do both. 1) Pray. Ask God to put people to help in your path. Prayer is the most powerful thing in the world. And 2) ask people if they need any help. And an amazing thing that happens- sometimes there is something they need help with!

Also, I guarantee one day you will be able to see when someone is in need. The Spirit will

*"AS YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST
GETS BETTER, YOU WILL DEVELOP
A LONGING TO HELP OTHERS,
NOT BECAUSE YOU SHOULD,
BUT BECAUSE YOU WANT TO."*

because you should, but because you want to.

And any action, big or small, matters to God. You don't need to travel to Africa and treat people with HIV in order to do a good deed and help people out. EVERYTHING you do is important to God and is part of His plan. As said by Steven Curtis Chapman about his song Do Everything, "1 Corinthians 10 says, "Whatever you do, do it for the glory of God." ... I really think God wants us to remember, and I'm trying to learn, that whatever we do, it all matters. Some might say, 'well, my job or role isn't important enough to make any real difference,' but I disagree." Every single thing you do will and does matter, big or small, good or bad. So

show you who is in need, and He will also tell what is needed to be done. And it will be amazing once you do. The reward is great. After you start to do great things, you will feel the difference inside. You will make new friends. And your reward in heaven will be even greater.

And soon after you begin to do these good deeds, people will notice. And they will begin to watch you and wonder what makes you so special. And show them: Jesus. Soon, some may come to Christ because they see the TRUE Christian inside you. After all we are to be Christians- we got to be like Christ- Jesus. And "just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve" (Matthew 20:28) so should we. ☺

The Writers of God



by Marcia Y. *photography from publicdomainpictures.net*

I stared in wonder as my guide led me to the massive library. It seemed to go on for miles and miles. As he led me through the door I questioned him, "Who owns this library?"

"The author and the finisher of our faith," my guide answered, "He is also the author of every book in the library." He opened a book. "This book holds the story of a beautiful lady who followed the call of God, surrendered everything she had, and dedicated her life to serving God." He opened another book, "This book contains the story of a ten-year-old child who died of cancer."

I ran my hand across the spines of the books. Every book had a different cover and title. Their titles had a very special meaning that described the life of the main character. The cover was

unique in the way it represented that person's story. It told if the story was sad, or if it was happy. It told of the mighty forces of God conquering the evil forces of Satan. Each book told a unique story of one of God's saints. Every story was different, yet they all told of how the love and forgiveness of God can prevail over the evil hold of the Devil.

As we walked deeper into the library, I noticed tall, beautiful figures writing. Some were sitting at tables, others were standing with their book in one hand and a pen in the other, but they were all writing. "What are they writing?" I asked gesturing toward the writers.

"They are writing the stories of saints still living," replied my guide, "those saints who are not yet finished on earth; God still has awesome plans for them."

"What are their stories?" I implored, "may I hear them?"

"Some, but not all," replied my guide, "this writer over here" he gestured, "is writing the story of a young man who overcame his fears of what others think of him and is now using his resources and talents that God has given him to impact the world in such a way that others will know that God reigns. And that young writer over in the corner, is just finishing the story of a young lady who was martyred because of her love toward our Saviour."

My guide told me stories of young people, old people, happy people, and sad people. He told of those who are laughing and of those who are crying. Every single person was absolutely amazing and had a unique story. Every single story showed the love of God shining through darkness. I cried when people were rejected and shed tears of joy when they overcame that rejection and showed others God's love.

As we approached the center of the library, I noticed a cluster of distinguished looking scholars

standing around a large book. "That book," said my guide, "is the most precious book in the library."

"Why is it so precious?" I questioned my guide. "In it is written the story of our Saviour," offered one of the students, "It is the story of the One who came to earth and offered himself as a sacrifice that we, who have broken God's commandments, might live. Without this story, there would be no other story. This story is the beginning and the end of every single story. All the stories you have just heard are built around this book. That is what makes it so important."

"That is the truth" agreed my guide as he led me once more toward the seemingly endless sea of writers.

As we passed through the writers of God, I paused next to a table where a young writer was busy writing. His laughing eyes glanced up at me just a moment when I asked my guide "And whose story is he writing?"

My guide grinned a little as he answered, "This young writer is writing your story." ☺





*An interview with Olivia Bachelor
photography from PublicDomainPictures.net*

Describe FaithFacts.

FaithFacts are daily scripture text messages. They summarize main points from the Bible and back them up with a scripture reference.

How did you get the idea for this ministry?

FaithFacts are definitely © God. In other words, I don't feel like I should get any of the credit for writing them. After all, it's all His inspired word anyway. I just try to spread it out and get it to as many people as I can.

When did you start sending the facts?

I started the first set of FaithFacts in July of 2009. Originally, there were about 5 people on my list. Then, my friends started telling their friends. In the next six months, I probably added 50 people to my list. As of now, 218 people receive FaithFacts daily.

How did you find the facts?

I started with verses I knew from memory, such as, John 3:16, Philippians 4:13, and Psalm

119:11. From there, I searched my Bible for highlighted scriptures and underlined passages. I also had help from indexes that organize scripture based on subject.

What is your goal for the people who receive the facts?

I would hope that everyone is able to open up each text message, read it, think about it, and apply it to their life. God knows the needs of every individual person on my list. He has a way of putting all the FaithFacts in a perfect order that speaks to people on a daily basis. I don't even know how many times I'll see someone in the hallway at school that stops me and says, "Hey, thanks for that FaithFact this morning. It was exactly what I needed to hear."

What have you learned in the process of starting this project?

I've grown up! I really have. When I started this ministry, I knew nothing about what I was doing. I just went out on a limb. A lot of people don't realize how much I have grown through FaithFacts. I've been able to read so

much scripture and get deep into the meaning of God's word through this process. I've even read FaithFacts that speak to me, believe it or not. I'll get ready to send it and realize how much I needed to hear what it has to say.

How has this project helped you grow closer to God?

I have prayed through this experience more than ever before. You don't know how many times I thought I wouldn't make it to my goal.



Sometimes I would run out of FaithFacts and literally have to write the one for that morning right before I sent it out. I would worry; God would bring me through it. It's kind of a cycle now.

What would you tell other teens who have an big idea for serving God?

First, pray. I mean get down on your knees and really pour your heart out to God. Ask Him to work through you. Tell Him you're ready to fulfill His plans.

Then wait. It may be a while before God really gives you the resources and time you need to get your project done. It's okay, though. Don't forget that God works on His own time, on perfect time.

And never give up. It will get tough, and you will want to quit. You'll feel like whatever you're doing is stupid and worthless. Satan will get in your head and tell you that every effort you make is meaningless. But persevere, and the Lord will make you strong. Absolutely nothing you do on His behalf, as His servant, is in vain.

How can people sign up to get the texts, and where can they find the facts online?

If you want to sign up to get FaithFacts, go to my website, <http://faithfacts.yolasite.com/faithfacts.php>. If you don't have a cell phone, but are still interested in reading FaithFacts each day, search FaithFacts on Facebook or Twitter. I have a page on both that is updated daily. 📱

Don't Hesitate

by Priscilla Carsten

Have you ever had an opportunity to talk to someone about Jesus and not done it? I know I have. Even though I cared about the person and knew how vital the message is, I passed by the chance to talk about it. Sharing the faith can be hard; in fact, even some of the Old Testament prophets were reluctant to bring God's message where He sent them. Fortunately, God had an answer for each circumstance that answered their hesitation and can also answer ours.

The Problem: Too Young

The Answer: God's Presence

When God called Jeremiah to be a prophet, Jeremiah objected that he was too young. It is hard to bring a message to people who are older and wiser, like standing up to a teacher who teaches against God's word or an adult who says the Bible isn't true. That person is older, with more knowledge, education, and experience. Yet God can still use young people. We might not know what to say to that person, but God will give us the words if we ask Him. He told Jeremiah that he would go to all the people God sent him to and speak what God told him to say. He said that Jeremiah didn't need to be afraid because He would be with him. God has always been, and He knows more than the most knowledgeable person who ever lived. When we pray about the situation and trust God, we can depend on Him to show us how to live in each situation.

The Problem: Our Inadequacies

The Answer: God's Provision

God called Moses from the burning bush when he was taking care of his father-in-law's sheep and told him to bring the Israelites out of Egypt. Moses wondered how he would get the Israelites to believe that God had sent him. God told him what to say to the people and showed him signs to show the people to prove it.

Then Moses objected that he wasn't a good speaker. I think anyone who's taken a speech class can sympathize with Moses. Getting up in front of people to talk can be a frightening experience and frequently the people can misunderstand what the speaker is saying. God's answer to this problem was just as prompt as His previous one. He said that He had created the mouth and had the power to make people able to talk or not able to talk. But instead of trusting God to help him speak, Moses asked God to send someone else. God got angry and told Moses that He would send Aaron to be Moses' spokesman. God is able and willing to provide the abilities we lack. All we have to do is let Him.

The Problem: Sin In Our Lives

The Answer: God's Forgiveness

Isaiah saw God sitting on a throne in the temple, and it made him realize how holy God was and how sinful he was. Our sin is another thing that can prevent us from sharing God's message

with others. How can we tell people about God when we haven't been living our lives the way we should? We must first get right with God. In Isaiah's case, one of the angels touched his mouth with a live coal and told him that that had taken away his iniquity. In our case, we must confess our sins and forsake them before we are ready to tell others about God.

The Problem: Sin In Their Lives

The Answer: God's Compassion

Unlike Isaiah, Jonah was not eager to be sent by God. God wanted him to go to the Ninevites, enemies of Israel who were very sinful. Jonah thought that they didn't deserve to be saved. When they repented he was angry. There are some people who live ungodly lives and have hurt so many people that we don't think they are worth saving. It doesn't seem fair to us that they can do so much harm and still be forgiven. God doesn't see it that way. He loves everyone. He used a plant that shaded Jonah for awhile and then died. Jonah pitied the plant, which God compared to Ninevah. People are much more valuable than a plant, and we should want them to come to Christ, no matter what they have done in the past.

The Problem: Fear

The Answer: Faith

Probably the most common thing that keeps us from sharing our faith is fear. We are afraid of people and what they will say about us. When God called Ezekiel, the people of Israel were rebelling against God. The chances that they would accept the things Ezekiel told them and repent weren't very great. God told Ezekiel not to be afraid of them or distressed about what they thought of him. Whether the people lis-

tened to what Ezekiel said or not, Ezekiel's job was to do what God told him to. You see, it's not the people that we are telling about God that we are serving; it's God. We aren't accountable for other people's choices but we are responsible for our own. In Ezekiel 3, God compares Ezekiel to a watchman. If a watchman saw an enemy coming but the people didn't listen to his warning, it wasn't the watchman's fault, but if the watchman didn't warn the people than the watchman would be held responsible for the people who died in the attack. God doesn't hold us responsible for the results of our witness. All we are accountable for is whether we obey His commands.



photography from publicdomainpictures.net

All through history, God has been using people who are too young, too shy, too sinful, too selfish, and too scared to advance His kingdom in mighty ways. Why? 2 Corinthians 12:9 (KJV) says, "My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness." None of us are able to serve God in our own strength, but God, in His mercy, displays in us His own limitless strength. No matter what questions and problems we might have, God is able to see us through them and use us for His glory. ☮

Don't Worry About It
by *Nicole Garcia*

Questions swarm in my head
Some doubt, a taste of despair
A shadow of foreboding dread
That all I dream will not be there.
My optimism
Tells me to take cheer
Nothing can predict
What God will bring to pass here.
But Worry is a little whisper in my ear...
And I fear that my dreams
Will fade away, never appear.

Will I walk
Or will I crawl?
Will I run
Or will I fall?
Will I flounder in mire
Or will I fly, and soar ever higher?

Here I sit,
Wondering all this
A troubled heart looking ahead.
And yet
In this moment, I feel this
Warm embrace
As my Savior says

“Don't worry about it.”¹

How Well Do You Know The Kings of Isreal and Judah?

1. This king's grandmother attempted to kill all the royal heirs.
 - a) Abijah
 - b) Joash
 - c) Jehoshaphat
 - d) Zedekiah
2. This king had Naboth killed so he could have his vineyard.
 - a) Omri
 - b) Hoshea
 - c) Elah
 - d) Ahab
3. God added fifteen years to this king's life because of his prayer.
 - a) Hezekiah
 - b) Jehoahaz
 - c) Jehoshaphat
 - d) Asa
4. This king taxed the people against the advice of his father's elders.
 - a) Rehoboam
 - b) Jeroboam
 - c) Solomon
 - d) Baasha
5. This king insisted in consulting a prophet of the LORD before going to war with Ahab against the Syrians.
 - a) Pekhiah
 - b) Rehoboam
 - c) Jehoshaphat
 - d) Nadab
6. This wicked king humbled himself and asked God for help when he was imprisoned in Babylon.
 - a) Manasseh
 - b) Omri
 - c) Abijah
 - d) Uzziah
7. When this king had the house of God repaired, the Book of the Law was found.
 - a) Ahaziah
 - b) Solomon
 - c) Zedekiah
 - d) Josiah
8. This king cut down an image of Asherah made by his mother.
 - a) Rehoboam
 - b) Zimri
 - c) Asa
 - d) Jehu
9. This king paid the king of Assyria not to come against Isreal.
 - a) Menahem
 - b) Manasseh
 - c) Nadab
 - d) Shallum
10. This king disobeyed God's command to destroy every living thing of the Amalekites.
 - a) Zimri
 - b) Saul
 - c) Ahaziah
 - d) Uzziah



David's Request

Psalm 56 (NKJV)

To the Chief Musician. Set to "The Silent Dove in Distant Lands." A Michtam of David when the Philistines captured him in Gath.

Be merciful to me, O God, for man would swallow me up; Fighting all day he oppresses me. My enemies would hound me all day, For there are many who fight against me, O Most High. Whenever I am afraid, I will trust in You. In God (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not fear. What can flesh do to me? All day they twist my words; All their thoughts are against me for evil. They gather together, They hide, they mark my steps, When they lie in wait for my life. Shall they escape by iniquity? In anger cast down the peoples, O God! You number my wanderings; Put my tears into Your bottle; Are they not in Your book? When I cry out to You, Then my enemies will turn back; This I know, because God is for me. In God (I will praise His word), In the LORD (I will praise His word), In God I have put my trust; I will not be afraid. What can man do to

me? Vows made to You are binding upon me, O God; I will render praises to You, For You have delivered my soul from death. Have You not kept my feet from falling, That I may walk before God In the light of the living?

When David learned that Saul wanted to kill him, he fled to Gath, the same place that Goliath had come from. The servants of the king of Gath recognized David as the best warrior in Isreal and told the king. David was afraid, so he pretended to be insane, and the king let him go. This psalm was David's prayer for protection.

David's prayer is striking because of the natural way that he talked to God about his situation. He didn't hide his fears or act brave, but he did make his requests without hesitation, and he did have confidence that God would answer.

It is commonly said that prayer is just like having a conversation with God, and that's exactly how David started his prayer. He told God what

the problem was: people were fighting against him on all sides, hunting for him and twisting his words to use them against him. When we pray, we can do the same thing. In some situations, there's no one near us who we can talk to about what's going on in our lives and ask for help. For David, this was one of them. But when we're alone, or surrounded by enemies, or in a difficult situation of any kind, we always have the option to talk to God in prayer.

David goes on to make a couple of requests. He requested that God cast down his enemies, and that He would remember his tears. The first of these requests dealt with David's immediate physical need to survive the attacks of his enemies. The second was about his relationship with God. One of God's attributes is Comforter. When David asked God to put his tears in His bottle, he wanted God's comfort and care.

Finally, David repeatedly emphasized that his confidence rested in God. He said at the beginning that when he was afraid, he would trust God. It's hard to trust God when things are going wrong. David had a history with God, though, that enabled him to leave all that he had in God's hands. He could remember times that God had accomplished His will in David's life, even when it seemed impossible. Humanly speaking, the chances of David defeating Goliath were laughable. But David realized that the chances changed considerably with God on his side. The outcome of a contest between Goliath and God wasn't even a contest. And we have the same God that he had. God doesn't change, and He is still worthy of that same trust from each of us.

At the end of his prayer, David praised God for delivering him and keeping him from falling.

He was in a risky situation, but he knew God would take care of him.

Few people face as much danger as David did in his life, but when bad times do come, we have his example to show us what to do. We can give our circumstances to God, and ask Him for what we need, with confidence. ☞



by Nicole Garcia

The season of life

Can be unkind

The summer days of dreams

Can wane into days of fall

Fading into the grasp of winter.

The flowers of the youth

Shrivel and wither

Break in the icy hold

Snap, and fall.

Yet, dormant in the earth

Resides hope—possibility.

Life lies there, warmth

A place where roots

Can form,

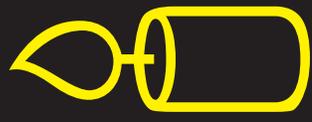
And grasp for life

And come spring again,

Even bud,

Leave, flower--

Even from where it has fallen. ☞



LL Magazine

Matthew 5:16