

CHANGE YOUR LIFE. CHANGE YOUR WORLD.

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Vol 1 • Issue 4



MOUNTAIN MEN

The whispers that
changed history

The Source of True Love

How to put more love
into your life

It's Free!

Heaven is yours
for the asking



PERSONALLY SPEAKING

Some people live in eternal insecurity. They can never be sure, no matter what they do or don't do, that they will go to

Heaven when they die. It's enough to make a nervous wreck out of anybody—and I once read about a man that it did just that to.

He had received Jesus as his Savior and tried his best to live according to Jesus' teachings, but found he couldn't live up to other people's standards, what they said was necessary to merit salvation. According to them, every time he made a mistake or had an unholy thought, he lost his salvation and was right back where he had started, a lost sinner.

Finally he wound up a nervous wreck and was hospitalized. While recuperating in the hospital, he spent much of his time reading the Bible. One day he read Ephesians 2:8–9: “By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast”—and he finally got the point. Salvation wasn't dependent on anything that he had done or could do beyond believing that Jesus had died for sinners like himself. He got so excited about this simple truth that he felt better immediately and started sharing his discovery with everybody around him: “Do you know that all you have to do to be saved is believe, that's all? Just believe! God's grace plus your faith plus nothing!”

And he was so right! We're saved by grace through faith—not by good works, or by being perfect, or doing penance, or keeping an endless list of dos and don'ts. Jesus has already done it all! And just like you are *saved* by grace, you are *kept* by grace. You don't need to worry about losing your salvation, because you can't. Once saved, always saved!

Keith Phillips
For *Activated*

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Finding Faith

By JOHN MARGAILLAN

THE THREE WOMEN were frantic. Stopped at a petrol station, they were now running back and forth between their car and the cashier, who was inside. When one of the women passed the stand where I was selling books, I asked her if there was anything I could do to help.

“We lost our car keys!” she exclaimed. “We’ve looked everywhere, and they’re *gone*. We’ll need to find a locksmith and have him make another key.”

The cashier phoned around, but couldn’t find anyone who could do the job. It was an expensive car with a sophisticated security system, and only the manufacturer could make duplicate keys. That would take 48 hours. The women were traveling and more than 1,000 km (600 mi) from home. The only thing they could do now, it seemed, was find a place to stay until the new key arrived.

“Pray with them to find the key,” a familiar voice spoke to my mind. It was Jesus, and He was putting me on the spot. Praying in public with strangers is not one of my strong points, but He always knows best, so I humbled myself and asked one of the women if she believed in Jesus.

“I’m not sure,” she replied.

I tried another approach. “Well, do you believe in prayer?”

She mumbled yes, so I told her that I wanted to pray for her and her friends to find the missing key. She was willing to try anything at that point, so the two of us prayed.

Twenty minutes later the manager came over to me, astonished. “They found the key!” he exclaimed. “I was watching you from the station as you prayed with one of the women, and now they’ve found it!”

At that same moment, the woman rushed over, literally jumping for joy. She gave me

a hug and thanked me for praying. “It was a miracle!” she said. “We were still looking all around, and there were no other cars at the station. Then a man pulled into a parking space near ours, and as he got out of his car, he asked us what we were looking for. When we told him, he reached down, picked up a key from the ground, and asked, ‘Is this it?’ The key is on a bright yellow key ring, so of course we would have seen it if it had been there all the time. I know this was a miracle!” she said again.

“When you asked me if I believed in Jesus and prayer, I really didn’t know what to say. I used to believe, but my life got so busy that I never put much thought or effort into prayer. This has renewed my faith!” ✠

JOHN MARGAILLAN IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The source of true love

GOD CREATED US with the need to love and be loved, and He alone can satisfy the deepest yearning of every human soul for total love and complete understanding. The things of this earth can satisfy the body, but only God and His eternal love can ever fill that aching spiritual void in our hearts that He created for Himself alone. The human spirit can never be completely satisfied with anything less than utter union with the great and loving Spirit that created it.

“God is love.”¹ He is the very Spirit of love itself, true love, everlasting love, real love, genuine love that never ends from a lover who never leaves, the lover of all lovers. He’s pictured in His Son, Jesus, who came for love and lived in love and died for love that we might live and love forever. “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”²

—DAVID BRANDT BERG (D.B.B.)

When we find Jesus and receive Him as our Savior, we make direct, personal contact with the creator and source of love, God Himself. New worlds of love open to us. Our perception of love in its many human forms deepens and gets better. But there’s even more than that in store for us: We can experience the supernatural love

of God that far surpasses any earthly loves.

To receive God’s love in Jesus, all you have to do is open your heart and ask Him to come in. Jesus promised, “Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me.”³ Jesus waits lovingly and meekly at your heart’s door, not forcing Himself upon you, not pushing the door open, but waiting for you to simply ask Him in. If you haven’t yet done so, you can right now by praying a simple prayer like the following:

Dear Jesus, I believe that You are the Son of God and that You died for me. I need Your love to cleanse me from past wrongs. I now open my heart and I ask You to come into my life. Please fill me to overflowing with Your love. Amen.

When you have done this, your life will be changed. Like a newborn baby, you’ll be born into a whole new world of love you have only dreamed of. He can give you a whole lifetime of love—all the love you’ll ever need to live your days to the full and come through any situation victoriously—but He can’t give it to you all at

¹John 4:8

²John 3:16

³Revelation 3:20

The things of this
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that He created for
Himself alone



once. Jesus and His love are always there for you, but you need to keep coming back for more. You need to let Him fill you up daily, and sometimes even hour by hour or moment by moment.

As you spend time praying to Jesus, reading His Word, and listening to His voice in your heart, He will impart His love to you and it will become part of you. Little by little you will become more like Him. You'll become more loving; His love will spill out of you on others. As you grow and mature in His love, His Spirit within you will enable you to do the humanly impossible: love God with all your heart, and your neighbor as yourself.⁴

—SHANNON SHAYLER

His love for you is unconditional. No matter how weak or disheartened you may feel right now, or how disappointed you may be in yourself or others, He still loves you. His great, perfect, marvelous, unconditional love is not lessened, no matter what the circumstances or conditions. He keeps pouring it on, and pouring it on without measure and without limit.

His love is always there for us, pouring forth in full measure, gushing forth in such abundance! And we can freely experience that love; we can have it manifested in our lives as much as we desire, according to our obedience

and yieldedness to Him. He's always looking for ways to show His love if we'll just let Him. He's just waiting for us to make a way, an avenue for His love to pour forth, and we do that by staying close to Him, by loving Him, and by doing the things that He wants us to do.

—MARIA FONTAINE

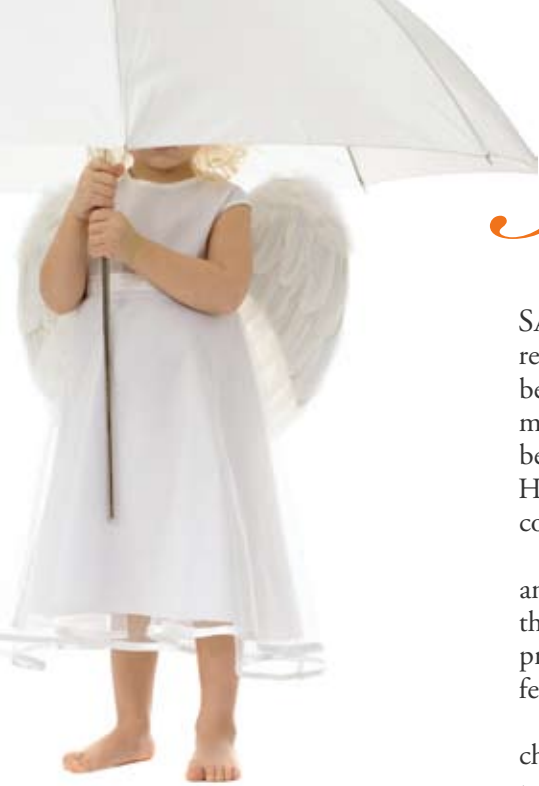
If people could just understand the magnitude of the Lord's love—how truly unconditional it is, how vast and deep and wide and unending it is—it would solve so many of their problems. They would find freedom from so many of their fears and worries and regrets. If they could just understand that, then they'd know that everything is going to work out, that He is going to cause everything to work together for good,⁵ because He is in control of every detail and His hand on their lives is so perfectly loving.

—D.B.B. ✨

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PROVOKING MATERIAL ON THE WORLD'S ALL-
TIME FAVORITE TOPIC, LOVE, ORDER THE
BOOKLET *LOVE'S MANY FACES* FROM ONE OF THE
ADDRESSES ON PAGE TWO OF THIS MAGAZINE.

⁴Matthew 22:37–39

⁵Romans 8:28



It's free

BY DAVID BRANDT BERG

SALVATION IS BY FAITH—pure and simple! Salvation is the result of believing: “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.”² If you get an emotional high or some other physical manifestation—a “feeling” of any kind—that is a bonus and beside the point. You are saved by faith in God’s Word, because He promised you salvation if you would meet His simple, single condition: believe. You’re not saved by your feelings.

It doesn’t matter how you feel, because God’s Word is unchanging and is not affected by that. It’s your faith that counts. If you believe the Word, regardless of how you feel, you’re saved! Eventually you probably will have some feeling, but it is not the “experience” or the feeling that saves you; that is a result of your being saved.

God’s plan from the beginning is based on free choice—your choice. God gave us free will to either choose to receive Jesus or to reject Him. Salvation is there for you. It’s yours, ready for the taking, but you must make the decision.

Salvation is a gift. All you have to do is reach out your hand of faith and receive it. Salvation is a miracle of God, but it’s yours for the asking. All you have to do is receive Jesus into your heart. He’s there, waiting to come in.

Believe and you’re saved. Period! Plus nothing! The Word plus faith plus nothing! That’s it! If you believe the Word and receive Him, it’s done! Of course, if you are thankful for Jesus’ love and the gift of salvation, your life will show it.³ But the instant you believe, it’s done, before you even have a chance to thank Him or show Him how much you love Him in return.

Salvation is not a reward. It’s not payment for anything good you may have done or anything bad you may have not done. It is a gift that you don’t earn and *can’t* earn by any kind of works of your own. “By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”⁴

All *you* have to do is receive it. That’s what He means by “not of yourselves.” The one thing you have to do, *anybody* can do, even a little child: Receive it. You don’t have to work up some emotional experience. You don’t have to pray it down or work it up. You just have to receive Him, that’s all. Plus nothing! ✨

DONE DEAL

You don’t need to worry about whether or not you are going to lose your salvation or how you are going to manage to *stay* saved, because eternal salvation by grace means once saved, always saved. Once you’ve received Jesus Christ as your Savior, there are no ifs, ands, or buts about it—you are a saved child of God! “He who believes in the Son *has* everlasting life.”¹ That one verse should be enough to end all your worries. You *have* eternal life right now, and you can’t lose it.

Besides, you can’t keep yourself saved any more than you could save yourself in the first place. Even though you’re not perfect and you’re bound to make mistakes, God is going to save you anyway. Salvation is forever. He’s already given it to you, and He’s not going to take it back. It’s yours!

¹John 3:36

²Acts 16:31 NIV

³James 2:17–18

⁴Ephesians 2:8–9

“I began to see that the things I owned, owned me.”

BY MICHAEL, FROM CANADA

AS THE SON of a successful corporate lawyer, growing up was pleasant for me. In my early teens my parents sent me to an elite private boarding school. Due to my great interest in art, I was then sent to a high school specializing in art and academic studies. My artwork and academic achievements there won me a scholarship at the Ontario College of Art, Canada’s most prestigious art college.

When I entered college, I was placed in the third year of the

New Beginnings

four-year art course—only the second student in the history of the college to receive this placement. At the end of my fourth year, I was given another scholarship and a grant to travel. After returning from extensive travels in Europe, I was hired by the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, where I worked for four years as a graphic designer. I also did freelance illustrations for a top agency in New York and for major newspapers, magazines, book publishers, TV, and animation companies.

I had climbed the ladder of success in my field, but it wasn’t

enough; my heart was not satisfied. I began to understand that “one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.”¹ I began to see that the things I owned, owned me. I wanted to find the true meaning of life.

Then one cold winter night on the downtown streets of Toronto, Canada, I met a total stranger who, in less than an hour, explained passages to me from the Bible that changed my life in the most profound way. That night I asked Jesus into my heart and found the greatest of all riches—Jesus and the Word of God. ✨

“I traded bitterness and confusion for peace and love.”

BY SHIRLEY, FROM INDIA

AM I DOING THE RIGHT THING? Is this what’s going to make me truly happy? What if...? I was on my way to an interview for a job overseas, and my mind was plagued with uncertainty about my future. I was still reeling from a broken relationship, and my family and friends agreed that a change would do me good; my colleagues at work called me an escapist.

I had been raised to believe in God, but had become upset, bitter,

and resentful toward Him after my father died in spite of the deals I tried to make with Him. Now when I faced this life-changing decision, I didn’t know who else to call on. I decided to give God one more chance to prove Himself. Walking to that appointment, I prayed, “God, if You’re real, help me with this decision.”

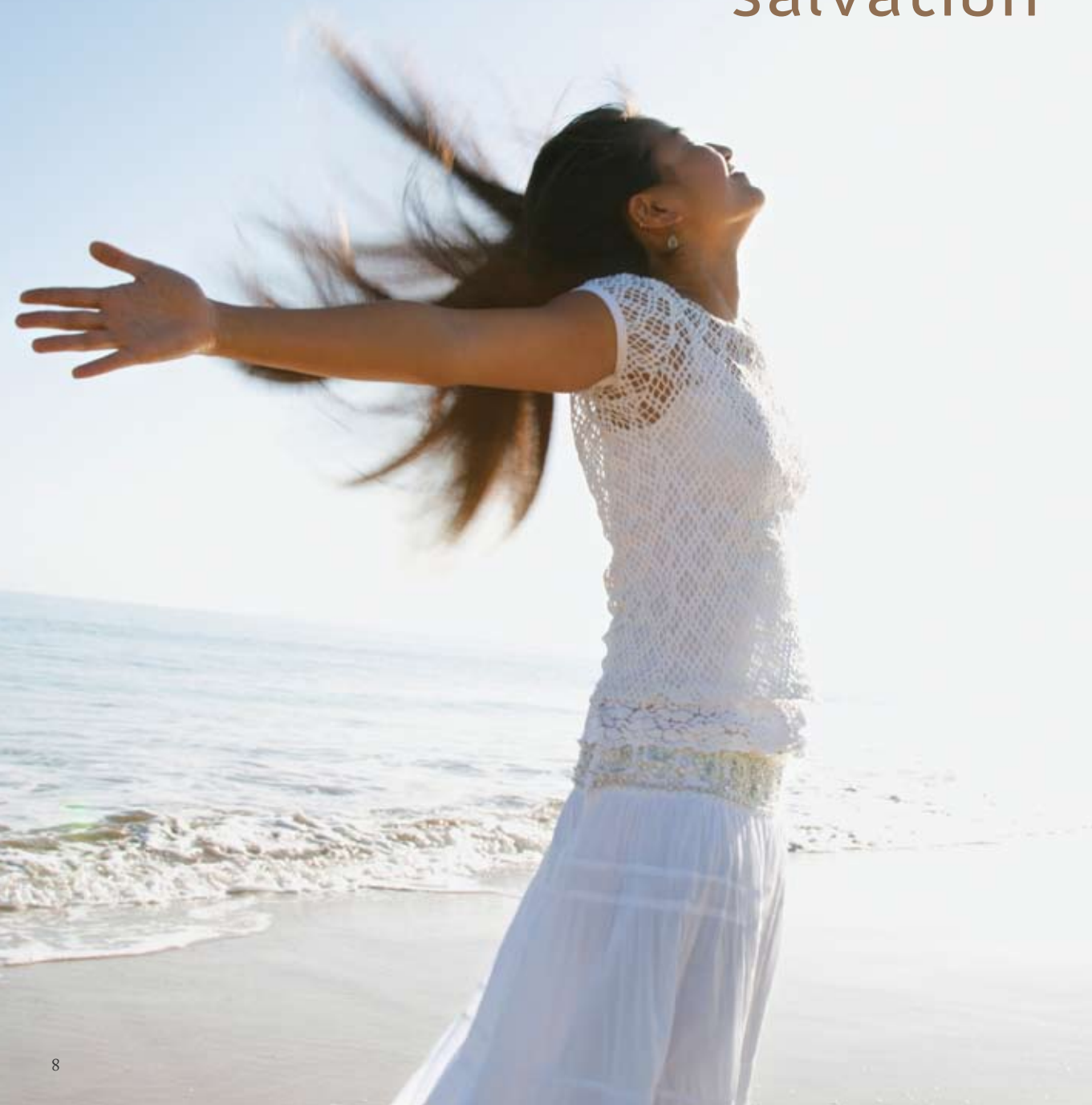
As my mind returned to that crowded Mumbai sidewalk, I saw him—a stranger with a bright smile and sparkling eyes. He stopped me and asked for directions. Something about him struck me as unusual. How did he manage to stay so cool, unperturbed, and untouched by the near-chaos around us? We talked, and the conversation turned to choices

and decision-making, God and the Bible. He showed me from the Bible how I too could have the peace that he had found by inviting the Prince of Peace, Jesus, into my heart. I prayed with that stranger right there on the sidewalk, and immediately felt a wonderful inner peace—and I forgot all about that interview!

That was the beginning of a deeper and more personal relationship with my Creator, Friend, and Companion. As I got to know Him better, I didn’t want to keep it to myself. Now I live to help others experience the love, joy, happiness, and hope that Jesus has given me. ✨

¹Luke 12:15

answers to some
of the most frequently
asked questions about
salvation



WHO NEEDS IT?

Most people seem to think God grades on a curve. If you try to be a good person and don't make too many serious mistakes, you'll probably be given an average or above average grade when you die, pass the course of life, and go to Heaven; if you're below average, you fail, and, well ...

That might sound like a fair enough arrangement, especially if you consider yourself a better-than-average person, but according to the Bible, it doesn't work that way.

None of us deserve to go to Heaven. The Bible says, "All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."¹ "There is not a just man on earth who does good and does not sin."² "There is none righteous, no, not one."³ Anyone who thinks they're good enough to make it to Heaven on their own is only kidding themselves—and they will miss out on God's greatest gift. "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."⁴

You can't be good enough. You can't earn salvation or work your way to Heaven. "By grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast."⁵ "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us."⁶

So who needs it? Everyone!

WHAT'S IT GOING TO COST ME?

"Surely there's a catch," you're probably thinking. "Surely I have to give up something, work hard, or do *something* to deserve salvation." No, you don't—and that's the beautiful thing about salvation! "It is the gift of God."⁷ When have you ever had to earn or pay for a gift someone gave you? A gift is a gift. If you had to earn or pay for it, it wouldn't be a gift.

Salvation is not a reward for good works. Your good works can't get you into Heaven any more than your bad deeds can damn you to Hell once

you've asked for and received God's forgiveness through Jesus' sacrifice. You're saved purely by faith in Jesus. You just have to accept the fact that you couldn't possibly pay enough to buy your way into Heaven, and then humbly accept God's gift. It's as simple as that.

ARE THERE ANY SINS TOO BAD FOR GOD TO FORGIVE?

God wants to freely forgive everyone for every wrong they have ever committed. He says, "Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, and He will have mercy on him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon,"⁸ and, "Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool."⁹

"For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."¹⁰ He wants to forgive everyone, and the way to experience His forgiveness is to believe in Jesus.¹¹ "He who believes in [Jesus] is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."¹²

When people hear the truth—God's plan of forgiveness and salvation through Jesus' sacrifice, explained in terms that they can understand—the Holy Spirit speaks directly to their hearts and brings them to the point of decision. If they believe and accept Jesus as their Savior, their sins are forgiven; but if they willfully refuse His forgiveness, God's hands are tied. "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."¹³ This deliberate rejection is blasphemy against the Holy Spirit, which God cannot forgive.¹⁴ God has given every person the

¹Romans 3:23

²Ecclesiastes 7:20

³Romans 3:10

⁴1 John 1:8

⁵Ephesians 2:8–9

⁶Titus 3:5

⁷Ephesians 2:8

⁸Isaiah 55:7

⁹Isaiah 1:18

¹⁰John 3:17

¹¹Acts 16:31

¹²John 3:18

¹³John 3:19

¹⁴Mark 3:28–29

majesty of free choice, and He will not override their decision to reject His offer.

Of course, just because someone rejects the truth the first time they hear it doesn't mean they'll never be given another opportunity to make the right choice. Many people get more than one chance. Still, the Bible tells us, "Now is the accepted time; behold, *now* is the day of salvation."¹⁵ "For you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."¹⁶

HOW MUCH FAITH DOES IT TAKE?

You'd be surprised how little faith it takes to receive God's gift of salvation! God doesn't expect you to have great faith in something you know so little about and understand even less, and it's impossible to understand or appreciate salvation, really, until you've experienced it. All it takes is enough faith to concede that Jesus could possibly be the way to salvation, and a sincere desire to let Him prove Himself to you. If you only have enough faith to pray, "Jesus, if You really *are* real, and if You really are the way to salvation, *show* me," He will! If you're convinced enough by what you've heard about salvation to give it a try, He's given you all the faith you need to be saved.

WHY JESUS?

"Why must I ask Jesus into my heart?" you may ask. "Why do I have to use that name? Why can't I just pray to God and find salvation that way, through His name?"

Because Jesus is the only One who came to earth and gave His life for you. Jesus said, "I am the door"—into His Father's house, the kingdom of God. "If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved."¹⁷ So if you want to get to Heaven, you have to walk through Jesus, the open Door.

Jesus is also the only door. "There is no other name"—no name but Jesus—"under Heaven by

which we must be saved."¹⁸ "There is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus."¹⁹ And Jesus Himself said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."²⁰ That's just the way it is!

Then what about the adherents of all the other religions in the world? Can't they be saved? Yes, they can all get saved, regardless of their religion. Even if they don't have any religion, they can still be saved—but only through Jesus.

CAN I LOSE MY SALVATION?

No! One of the most marvelous things about the gift of salvation is that once you have received Jesus into your heart, He is there to stay. He has come into your life, and He will be with you forever. Jesus has said that He will never leave you nor forsake you, and that He will be with you always, even to the end of the world.²¹ There is nothing you could ever say or do that would nullify these wonderful promises.

Jesus knows you're not perfect and never will be—and He loves you just the same! When He forgave you for your sins, He not only forgave your past sins but your present sins and those you will yet commit as well.

True, you can keep yourself in line for more of God's blessings by trying your best to please Him and do what's right, but you can't keep yourself *saved!* Jesus did that once and forever. Eternal life is not a sometimes thing—saved and lost and saved again, every time you make a mistake and say you're sorry. There's no such thing! Once you're saved, you're saved forever!

Of course, if you willfully do wrong once you're saved and don't repent and make things right, you'll suffer for those sins in some way. The Lord will have to let you reap the bad results so you'll learn a lesson. "For whom the Lord loves He chastens."²² But even then, you won't lose your salvation! ❧

¹⁵2 Corinthians 6:2

¹⁶James 4:14

¹⁷John 10:9

¹⁸Acts 4:12

¹⁹1 Timothy 2:5

²⁰John 14:6

²¹Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:20

²²Hebrews 12:6

Power Up!



JESUS TOLD HIS FOLLOWERS that He would “send the Promise of the Father” upon them, so they would be “endued with power from on high.”¹ If you have received Jesus as your Savior, if you have been “born again of the Spirit,” then you have already received a little of that Holy Spirit power. But that doesn’t mean that you’ve received the *full measure* of the Holy Spirit. This is usually a separate experience that happens later.

A glass of water makes a good illustration. If the glass has at least *some* water in it, you could say that it’s a glass of water, even though it’s not a *full* glass. Many Christians are like glasses with just a little water, a bit of God’s Spirit. But those who have prayed for an infilling of the Holy Spirit are like glasses that have been filled till they overflow.

Have you received the full power of God’s Spirit? If not, you can right now. You just have to ask for and receive it by praying a simple prayer like the following:

Dear Jesus, I know that I need more of Your love and power in my life, so please fill me with Your Holy Spirit right now. Amen.

Power for what?

Love power. God is the very Spirit of love itself,² so when He fills you with His Holy Spirit, your heart overflows with love—love for Him and love for others.

Prayer power. In order to receive or transmit messages, a two-way radio must be plugged into a power source; the greater the power, the better the radio operates. Prayer works the same way, and

it’s powered by the Holy Spirit. Spirit-filled prayers reach their destination loud and clear, and they really get results.³

Power to get more closely connected. Shortly before His crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus promised His disciples that He would send them a Comforter or Helper, the Holy Spirit, to strengthen, empower, lead, and guide them in their spiritual lives and relationships with Him. “The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.”⁴

Power to make positive changes in your life. Self-help books, resolutions, and willpower aren’t enough! What you really need to make positive changes in your life is God’s help. You may be able to make some changes yourself, but to get real and lasting deep changes, you need the renewing power of the Holy Spirit.⁵

Power to share the Good News with others. If you find it difficult to share your faith with others, you’ll be happy to know that one of the main purposes of the Holy Spirit is to give you the boldness and the courage to tell others about the Lord and His love. ✚

¹Luke 24:49

²John 4:24; 1 John 4:8

³Romans 8:26–27

⁴John 14:26

⁵See Titus 3:5



Mountain Men

BY DAVID BRANDT BERG

WHEN Jesus climbed the mountain, He left the multitude behind. “And seeing the multitudes, He [Jesus] went up on a mountain, and when He was seated His disciples came to Him.”¹ Mountain peaks are never crowded. Why? Because it’s hard work getting there. Not very many people desire to climb mountains.

There is more light on the mountain. Long after the valley is in darkness, you can still see the sun. The valley is almost always dark—full of people and things, but usually in darkness. The mountain is windy and cold, but thrilling.

If you’re going to climb a mountain, you have to have the feeling that it’s worth dying for. Any mountain—the mountain of this life, the mountain of accomplishment, the mountain of obstacles, of difficulty—has to be worth braving wind and cold and storm, symbolic of adversities.

Only pioneers climb mountains—people who want to do something that few have ever done before, people who want to get above the multitude and go beyond what has already been

accomplished. Pioneers must have vision—vision to see what no one else can see; faith—faith to believe things no one else believes; initiative—initiative to be the first one to try it; courage—the guts to see it through!

On the mountain you feel like you’re living in eternity, whereas down below they’re living in time. You see the world in its proper perspective, with range after range to be conquered and a world beyond the vision and horizon of normal men. You see distant peaks yet to be climbed, distant valleys yet to be crossed. You see things that the men in the valleys can never see, or even comprehend.

In the valley, people get so caught up in the multitude and the little make-believe world of materialism that they can’t see anything but time and creatures of time and things of time, which are soon to pass away. But if you thrust your head above the multitude, you become like a mountain

¹Matthew 5:1

in their midst, and they will resent and resist and fight you because they can't understand you and don't want you.

They don't even want to know that there *are* mountains! They don't want others to hear there are mountains, nor to have a breath of fresh air from those crystal peaks. They want to keep everyone shut in down in the valley, in the mud and mire. They don't want it to be known that there is any other place to go than the valley, and they will do everything they can to discourage you from climbing the mountain.

Man dominates the valley, but only God dominates the mountain, and the men living on the mountains know this. But men living in the valleys think they are God, because they dominate themselves. They have become so secure that they think they don't need God. They have forgotten there *is* any God, for they can't see the sky any longer.

Beaten paths are for beaten men, but mountain peaks are for mighty pioneers.

What do you hear on the mountain? Things that are going to echo around the world. What do you hear in the stillness? Whispers that are going to change the course of history!

The greatest laws ever given to man, whereby most of the world is still ruled, were given to one man alone on a mountain. Moses came down from a mountain with the Ten Commandments, and the Hebrew nation was never the same, nor was the world!

The greatest sermon ever preached, the Sermon on the Mount, was given to a handful of mountain men by the greatest mountaineer of all, Jesus, who finally climbed His last mountain, Mount Calvary, Golgotha, and died alone for the sins of the world. That was a mountain that only He could climb for you and me, but He made it!

After Jesus' disciples heard His Sermon on the Mount, they came down and changed the world.

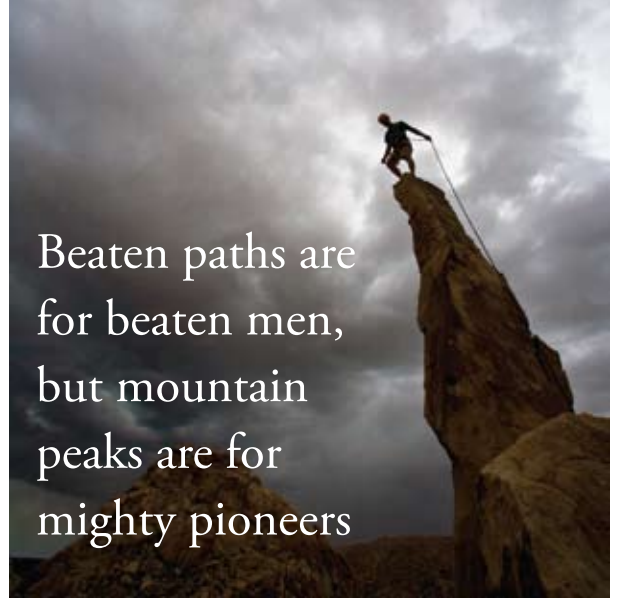
²Matthew 5:3

³Matthew 5:6

⁴See Luke 1:53

⁵Matthew 5:8

⁶Psalms 11:1



Beaten paths are
for beaten men,
but mountain
peaks are for
mighty pioneers

They were never the same. What changed them that changed the world? They heard the voice of God teaching them things that were completely contrary to what was being said in the valley!

In the valley they were saying, "Blessed are the Romans—the proud and the powerful. Look what they've done! They've conquered the whole world!" But on the Mount, Jesus was saying just the opposite:

"Blessed are the poor in spirit [the humble], for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven."² Simple little illiterate fishermen were listening to a carpenter tell them something that would make them greater rulers than the Caesars of Rome!

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."³ The people on the mountain hunger and thirst for the truth, and only God can satisfy them. The people down in the valley can't see any further than the end of their nose and are satisfied with themselves and are *full*—and He sends them away empty.⁴

"Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God."⁵ There's no smog on the mountain. The air is pure. The water is pure. The people are pure in heart. They see God.

Life is on the mountain! Get out of the valley!
"Flee as a bird to your mountain."⁶ 🐦

(THE ABOVE WAS EXCERPTED FROM DAVID BRANDT BERG'S ARTICLE BY THE SAME TITLE.)

More signs of the end

THE FUTURE FORETOLD, PART 3

BY MICHAEL ROY AND
SCOTT MACGREGOR

WHEN JESUS' DISCIPLES asked Him what would be the sign of His return and the end of the world as we know it, He answered by revealing not one sign but many, including two of the five covered in this installment of *The Future Foretold*. The other three come from the Old Testament book of Daniel and the New Testament writings of Paul the apostle.

THE "ME GENERATION"
"Because iniquity shall abound,
the love of many shall grow cold."¹

This is how Jesus described the callous condition of people's hearts in the days before His return. In a related passage, the apostle Paul writes, "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slander-

ers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God."²

Selfishness and cold-heartedness seem to be prevalent almost everywhere we look.

**THE GOOD NEWS GOES
GLOBAL**

"And this Gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come."³

Unlike wars, famine, plagues, and earthquakes, which Jesus called "the beginning of sorrows," He said that this particular sign—the Gospel being preached in all the world—was a specific sign that would indicate when the actual *end* of the age would be upon the world.

According to *The Almanac of the Christian World*, Christians and Christian churches now exist in every country of the world.⁴ Missiologists estimate that between 75 and 85 percent of the

world's population have heard the Gospel at least once.⁵ Over 50 million Bibles are distributed every year, as well as nearly 80 million New Testaments. Four billion gospel tracts are also printed each year.

According to the United Bible Societies, the entire Bible or parts thereof are now available to about 98 percent of the world's population, having been translated partially or entirely into some 2,303 languages and dialects.

Other Christian books are also proliferating. Books primarily about Jesus in today's libraries number 175,000 titles in 500 languages, increasing by four newly published books every day.⁶ The Gospel is also preached in 38,000 Christian magazines and on 4,050 radio and television stations.⁷ Ninety-nine percent of the world's population have the Gospel available to them via Christian radio stations.⁸

Meanwhile an innumerable number of Christian websites,

¹Matthew 24:12 KJV

²2 Timothy 3:1-4

³Matthew 24:14

⁴*The Almanac of the Christian World* (Wheaton, Illinois: Tyndale House Publishers, 1990).

⁵DAWN Fridayfax (2001 #2), <http://www.jesus.org.uk/dawn/2001/dawn02.html>.

⁶DAWN Fridayfax (2003 #7), <http://www.jesus.org.uk/dawn/2003/dawn07.html>.

⁷DAWN Fridayfax (2002 #8), <http://www.jesus.org.uk/dawn/2002/dawn08.html>.

⁸DAWN Fridayfax (2001 #2), <http://www.jesus.org.uk/dawn/2001/dawn02.html>.

cyber churches, gospel webcasts and podcasts, and other Christian ministries evangelize, inform, and pastor via the Internet.

The story of Christ's sacrifice reached millions worldwide with Mel Gibson's retelling of *The Passion of Christ* (2004), but its viewing audience is dwarfed by the *Jesus* (1979) film. Shot on location in the Middle East, *Jesus* is a retelling of Luke's gospel. Starring a white British Jesus and with a mostly Jewish Yemenite cast, it is an unlikely candidate for the most watched or most translated film, but it is both.⁹ It has been translated into over 1,000 languages with over 200 more translations in progress (with over 58 million products, including film, video, and audio distributed), and it has had an estimated combined viewing and listening audience of over 6 billion.¹⁰

Never in the course of history has the Gospel been preached in all the world to all nations as it is right now by every means possible.

GLOBETROTTERS AND JETSETTERS

"Many shall run to and fro..."¹¹

In 534 BC, the prophet Daniel received an outstanding revelation, after which God told him that even though the prophecy was given through him, he wouldn't

understand it because it didn't pertain to him.

Amongst many other things, Daniel was told: "Seal the book until the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall increase."¹²

Many running to and fro literally means "speeding about, here and there," or as *The Living Bible* renders this verse, "travel shall be vastly increased."

Until about 100 years ago, people's means of transportation—horse and buggy, wagons, camels, boats, etc.—had not changed substantially for thousands of years.

INFORMATION OVERLOAD

"Knowledge shall increase."¹³

It is with good cause that the term "information overload" was coined in recent years. If the amount of information that is available is any indication of the knowledge available, knowledge has increased within our generation almost beyond imagination!

Global information increases about 30% per year, according to figures developed by the University of California at Berkeley.¹⁴

Each year around a million books are printed (that's titles, not copies), 25,276 newspapers are published (that's publications,

not issues), 40,000 scholarly journals, 80,000 mass-market periodicals, and 40,000 newsletters.¹⁵

PAGAN REVIVAL

"Now the [Holy] Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons."¹⁶

Not only are many people unknowingly falling for Satan's deceptions, increasing numbers are following rank Satanism. The Bible tells us that if people willfully reject God's truth, they will be given "strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."¹⁷ When we refuse the truth, there is nothing left to believe but a lie. This is why much of the world today is wide open for deceivers and false prophets.

Two fields in which paganism and Satanism have made tremendous inroads are the popular music business and the computer gaming industry.¹⁸ The most shameless acts of blasphemy and desecration are now socially acceptable in the name of audiovisual and multimedia entertainment and "freedom of expression."

(CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF *ACTIVATED*. EXCERPTED FROM THE BOOKLET *THE FUTURE FORETOLD*. 3RD ED. AURORA PRODUCTION AG, 2008.) ☞

⁹Giles Wilson, "The most watched film in history," *BBC News Online*, 21 Jul 2003.

¹⁰The Jesus Film Project, <http://www.jesusfilm.org/progress/statistics.html>, accessed 1 August 2008.

^{11, 12}Daniel 12:4

¹³Daniel 12:4

¹⁴Robert Malone, "Information Inundation," *Forbes*, 8 Nov 2005, http://www.forbes.com/2005/11/08/data-functions-coping-cx_rm_1107data.html.

¹⁵UNESCO 1996, ISSN 2001, *Ulrich's 2000, Oxbridge Directory 1997*.

¹⁶1 Timothy 4:1

¹⁷2 Thessalonians 2:10–11

¹⁸Steven L. Kent, "Cyberplay: Why do so many games have violence and devil imagery?" CNN, 30 May 1997, <http://www.cnn.com/SHOWBIZ/9705/29/cyber.lat/>.

CONNECT >> WITH ME

■ No matter what your circumstances or how you have handled them up till now, no matter what you have done or not done, I love you. I see your every tear. I hear your every cry for help. I feel your every heartache, your every sorrow, your every frustration, your every worry. I know your every desire. I see straight through to your heart of hearts and all that is in it, and I love you more deeply than you can possibly comprehend.

I see your struggles and I want to help. Life often *is* a struggle, but it is made so much easier when you spiritually connect with Me. I have all the love and comfort and peace and solutions you seek. I can transform turmoil, emptiness, and disappointment into peace, plenty, and love.

I am right here at your side, waiting patiently for you to reach out to Me so I can relieve your troubled mind, dry your tears, and show you how much I love you. You just need to connect with Me. You can do it anytime, anywhere, and I will supply the needs of your spirit, whatever you need most at that moment.

