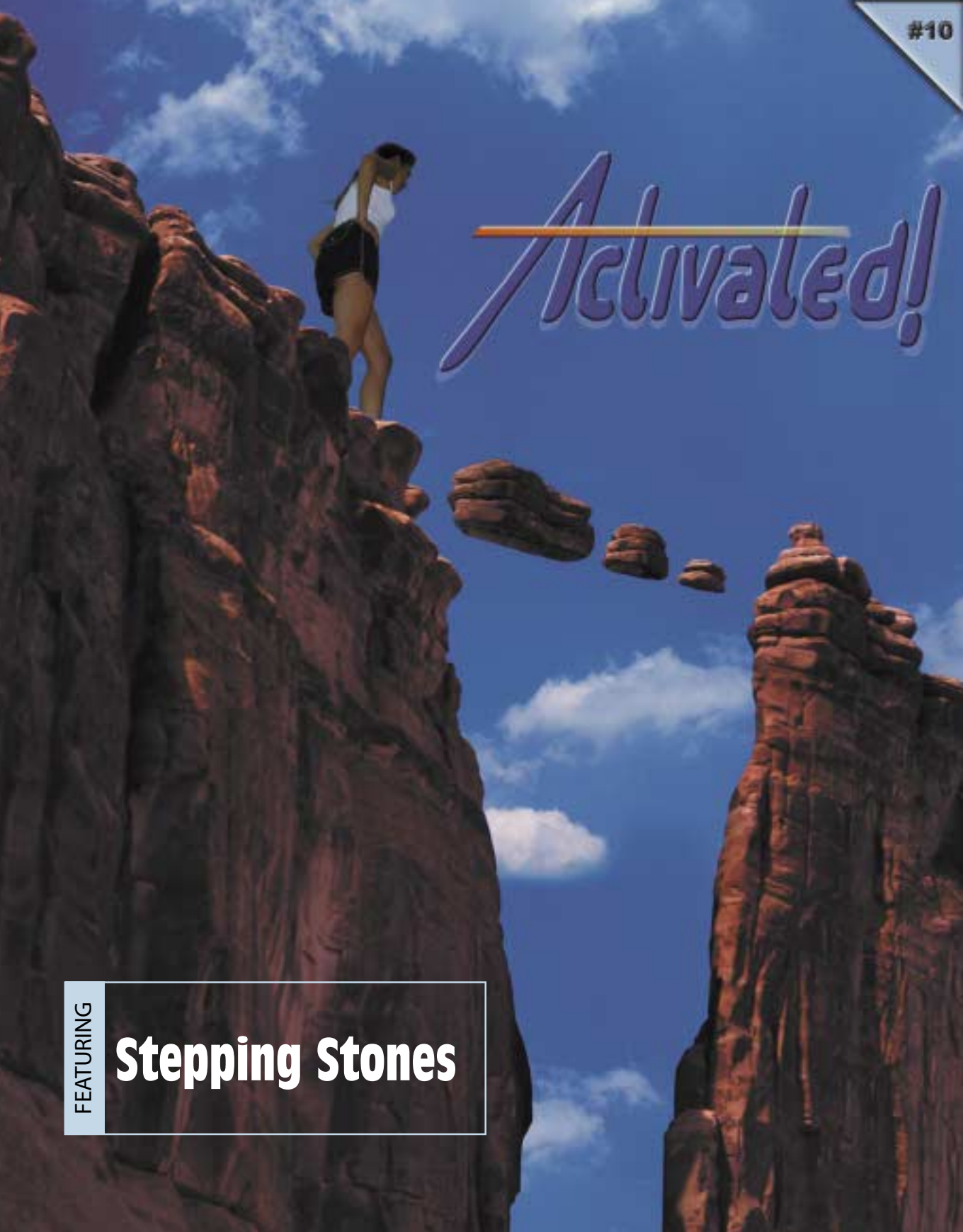


Activated!

FEATURING

Stepping Stones



Activated!

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Personally Speaking

Sometimes it seems that life is just full of problems—sickness, accidents, loss of loved ones, financial problems, family problems, and on and on the list goes. “Hasn’t there been some sort of *mistake* here?” we may ask. “If God is really *love*, as the Bible says in 1 John 4:8, and if He created this beautiful world for us to live in and enjoy, then why all these problems?”

The answers to these questions are nearly as varied as the problems we face. Sometimes the Lord allows these things to test and strengthen our faith. Sometimes they happen to keep us close to the Lord and dependent on Him, as we realize that we’re insufficient in ourselves and need His help. Sometimes they happen to make us pray more earnestly. Sometimes they happen to teach us lessons of patience, or positiveness in the face of adversity. Sometimes they happen to keep us humble. Sometimes they happen so God can demonstrate His power to solve our problems. Sometimes they happen to make us stronger in mind and spirit. Sometimes they happen to make us wiser. Sometimes they happen to help us appreciate our other blessings and all the problems we *don’t* have. There are all kinds of good reasons for having troubles, believe it or not! And whatever the reason, it is *always* for our ultimate good! “All things work together for good to those who love God” (Romans 8:28).

Of course, how quickly and completely God is able to accomplish His good purpose often depends on how much cooperation He gets from us. This issue of *Activated!* explains how to put your spiritual resources on God’s side and work with Him so He can give you His very best—even when things seem to be at their worst.

Keith Phillips

Keith Phillips

For your *Activated!* family

BIG GOD

picture
coming
soon

MICHAEL, AUSTRALIA

As I was about to pass an elderly gentleman on the street, I felt a sudden urge from the Lord to speak with him.

“Hello, I’m Michael,” I said as our eyes met.

“Hi, Michael. I’m Joe. Pleased to meet you,” he replied in a strong Italian accent.

After a little small talk, I explained that I am a missionary and the streets of our city are my mission field. “It’s amazing how many people need help with one problem or another these days,” I said.

He nodded. Something

was really worrying him, he said. He had developed a heart problem from years of heavy smoking and had had an operation, after which his doctors had given him five years to live. That was 17 years ago.

“My heart’s been acting up since this morning,” Joe went on to say. “I think this might be it.”

I offered him some encouragement from the Bible, and he thanked me profusely. Then Joe asked how I’d ended up in a wheelchair.

“I broke my neck in a diving accident,” I explained. “Australia Day, 1985, at the local river.”

Joe stared at me in disbelief. “What hospital did they take you to?” he asked.

Then he told me that he distinctly remembered sitting outside the casualty ward at the same hospital that day, when a young man was rushed past him on a trolley. He had asked the hospital staff what had happened, and their

brief account of a diving accident fit my own. He had felt so bad for the man on the trolley, he said, and had wondered how such a horrible thing could have happened to such a young person with so much to live for. What he meant, of course, was how could God have let something so horrible happen.

“At the time it did seem to me and everyone else like the worst thing that ever could have happened to me,” I said, “but out of it came so much good. The best thing was that it was the beginning of a real and deep relationship with Jesus. Whatever God does, He does in love.”

Joe wasn’t religious or anything, he said, but he did believe in Jesus.

I then asked him if he would like to ask Jesus into his heart. He said that he would, and sincerely prayed with me to receive Jesus and His free gift of everlasting life. Good things are still coming out of my accident. ■

Stepping Stones



If you ever find yourself feeling down and out because of your weaknesses, failures or circumstances, you may be about to discover just how close and caring the Lord is, because it's through life's most trying times that we learn that Jesus is always there at our side. He loves us and wants only the best for us. When we understand that the Lord has a positive purpose in everything He allows to happen to us, we can learn to benefit from even our troubles. Each difficulty or disappointment can become a steppingstone to lead us to higher ground.

God's loving plan

God has promised in His Word, "All things work together for good to those who love God" (Romans 8:28). He will never let anything happen to you, His child, that isn't for your good. Although a lot of things may have happened to you that didn't look very good at the time, you'll find out sooner or later, if you haven't already, that in some way they *were* good for you.

If you learn the simple equation "trials equal good," your life will be richer, your lessons greater, your mind more tranquil, and you will more easily recognize the Lord's hand in the events of your life. It makes all the difference in the world whether you look at a flood of problems, trials, battles and tribulations just waiting to see the worst happen, or if you look at them with the excitement and challenge that comes from waiting to discover all the good you know the Lord will bring out of them.

—*Maria David*

The Lord's answers to our prayers are infinitely perfect, but sometimes He doesn't answer our prayers the way we want Him to because He sees ahead and knows that our desires would harm us or others if He were to grant them. Often we later find that what we were asking for was actually a stone that merely looked like bread, while He was trying to give us bread that in our shortsightedness looked like a stone (Matthew 7:7–11).

The darkest times of all

God's purposes aren't always immediately clear, but you can always rest assured that you're in His care, and that things will work together for good in the end—somehow, somehow. When you're going through trying times, in spite of the battles, in spite of the loss, in spite of the confusion, in spite of the heartbreak, you must hold on to the knowledge that the Lord loves you. His love is unchanging, unfailing and unending. No matter what happens, no matter how bleak the outlook, no matter how difficult the battle, no matter how long and dark the tunnel, no matter how severe the suffering, He loves you! He doesn't give His love stingily. He doesn't mete out a little here or a little there as you earn it. He always pours forth His love freely and abundantly!

Jesus has promised you, "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20 KJV). He also promises, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5). Even through the darkest and most trying times, the Lord is always "a Friend who sticks closer than a brother" (Proverbs 18:24). "Yea,

though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me" (Psalm 23:4). He is there in the darkness. He is there in the trial. He is there in the test. He is there in the confusion. He is there in the depths. He is there because He loves you. He is there to help you through.

Jesus doesn't like to see you suffer and be unhappy, but He knows you have to go through these things in order to become the man or woman He wants you to be and to fulfill your part in God's great plan—even as He had to go through the agony of dying on the cross for the sins of the world.

Pathway to glory

When you come to the end of life's road and look back at all that happened to you, you'll see just how much the Lord loved you and how faithfully He cared for you all along the way, especially when the going got rough. It will be clear then that the rocks in your path were not placed there to cause you to stumble, but they were meant to be steppingstones to glory—the glory of utter dependence upon the Lord, the glory of His Spirit working through the humble spirit, the trusting soul, the yielded mind, the loving heart.

So no matter what hard turns your road may take, remember that Jesus is with you. He cares, and He will eventually cause even the "worst" situations to work together for your good. He has promised to!

For more on how to pass through life's tests and trials victoriously, don't miss *Obstacles Are for Overcoming*, from the *Get Activated!* series! ■



HEAVENLY VICTORY

IN THE GREAT TRIBULATION

The Bible warns us that a powerful one-world government will arise in these final days of man's reign on Earth, led by a demonic dictator—the Antichrist—who will actually be possessed by Satan himself! The last three and a half years of his rule will be a time that the Bible calls the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21; Revelation 7:14). This Antichrist government will use a universal electronic credit system to try to cause everybody to come under the control of the Antichrist, because no one will be able to buy or sell without a personal credit number, or “mark of the Beast” (Revelation 13:16–18). The Antichrist will also set up an idol, an image of himself, and somehow cause those who refuse to worship the image to be killed (Revelation 13:14–15).

But God's children will refuse to worship the Antichrist or receive his mark—and God will take care of them! (Revelation 12:6,14). Although some Christians will die as martyrs, the Antichrist will not be able to overcome them spiritually. The Lord

says, “And they”—the Christians—
”overcame *him* [the Antichrist] by
the blood of the Lamb [Jesus] and by
the word of their testimony; and they
did not love their lives to the death”
(Revelation 12:11).

“If God is
for us, who
can be
against us?”
(Romans 8:31)

God's Word also promises that during this time “the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits,” and that “those of the people who understand shall instruct many” (Daniel 11:32,33). In those days many will be seeking the truth and a way out of their desperate situations, and those who know the Lord and understand His Word will be able to explain to them what's happening. Those in the know will lead and encourage God's other children till the very end.

The Lord has also promised to come to His people's defense with mighty signs and wonders. When you read in Revelation chapters 8 and 9 about of the "trumpets of

The Lord is also going to give many of those who believe in Him miraculous powers ...

tribulation" and the horrific plagues that they herald, you need to remember that God is sending these plagues to torment the *wicked* and

ungodly. Those who have the "seal of God"—that is, those who believe in and love Jesus—have nothing to fear! (Revelation 7:2–3; 9:1–5). The Lord is also going to give many of those who believe in Him miraculous powers to defend themselves, survive, continue to proclaim the truth and lead others to Him right up till His return (Revelation 11:3–6).

So don't worry about the Great Tribulation! It's not going to be some kind of a lopsided, rampaging victory for the Devil! God's people are going to win supernatural victories over him and all of his powers! ■

Feeding Reading



WHY DOES GOD ALLOW TRIALS AND TESTS?

To draw us closer to Him

Psalm 107:12–13

To see if we will remain true to Him

Deuteronomy 8:2
Deuteronomy 13:3–4
Jeremiah 17:10

To draw us closer to His Word

Psalm 94:12
Psalm 119:67,71

To make us more fruitful

John 15:2

To train us

Hebrews 5:8
1 Peter 4:1–2

To make us more useful vessels

Jeremiah 18:4
2 Timothy 2:21

To purify us

Psalm 66:10
Job 23:10
Isaiah 48:10
Daniel 11:35
1 Peter 1:7

To prepare us for the future

Deuteronomy 8:16
Psalm 105:17–22

To teach us patience

Romans 5:3
James 1:3–4

To teach us compassion towards others

Hebrews 4:15
2 Corinthians 1:4



“Endure hardship, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” [2 Timothy 2:3].

Fiiohters

Many people, when they receive Jesus as their Savior, assume that all their problems will be immediately and forever solved. They think they’ll never have any more difficulties, but this usually isn’t the case.

When discussing the tests and trials that new Christians often face, especially those who are witnessing their newfound faith to others, my mother used to say, “The Devil doesn’t start shooting until you ‘go over the top!’” She was alluding to the trench warfare of World War I. The soldiers on both sides often spent days or weeks huddled in their trenches, during which time they held their fire. But whenever one side ordered an offensive and their soldiers climbed over the top of the trenches to attack their enemy’s territory, the other side would immediately start shooting at them with all their big guns!

It reminds me of the story about Sam, a Christian who was the servant of a wealthy, unbelieving plantation owner. One day Sam’s boss asked him, “Why is it, Sam, that you’re a Christian, and yet you have all sorts of problems and tribulations? I don’t even believe in God, and I don’t have nearly as much trouble as you do!”

Sam replied, “Well, boss, I guess I’ll have to think about that one before I can answer you.”

A few days later, Sam’s boss went duck hunting, and took Sam along to help him.

After Sam’s boss had shot several ducks, he shouted to Sam, “Bag the live ones, Sam! Bag the live ones! Leave the dead ones lay!”

By David Brandt Berg

With God you
cannot lose,
because
you're on the
winning side!

(When hunting ducks or other fowl, some are killed outright. Others are only wounded and will sometimes revive enough to fly away if the hunter doesn't quickly grab and "bag" them.)

When Sam returned with the ducks, he said, "Boss, I think I have the answer to the question you asked me the other day. I'm a *live* one!" And he went on to explain, "The Devil's afraid I'm going to get away, so he tries to bag me first. You're a dead one! He's not a bit worried about you. He's already *got* you!"

The Devil is out to stop each new Christian the best he can. He can't get us back once we're saved, because we can't lose our salvation; we're the Lord's forever. The battle for our souls is won, and it's a permanent victory (John 6:37; 10:28–29).

Although the Devil can't get us back, he can still give us a lot of trouble. He will especially do all he can to try to keep us from serving God and winning others into the Lord's kingdom. Every person won to Christ is a threat to the Devil. Every new Christian is potentially capable of winning hundreds of others away from him, so the Devil tries to destroy their usefulness to the Lord.

In the face of such opposition, some Christians ask, "Well, what did receiving Jesus do for me, anyway? I'm having these horrible trials now!" Christians who complain like that need to stop and think about what Jesus has done for them. They're *saved*; that's the main thing. They've got eternal life; they're not going to Hell; they don't have to worry about death anymore.

Where's their gratitude? Where's their love and loyalty? Isn't the love of their Savior worth fighting for? Aren't their new Christian brothers and sisters worth fighting for? Maybe they don't want to go through all these trials and tribulations just for themselves, but shouldn't they be willing to fight for the sake of others?

They also need to remind themselves that there are all kinds of benefits to being a Christian. They've got all the promises in the Bible on their side now. Yes, "many are the afflictions of the righteous," but the second half of that verse promises, "but the Lord *delivers* him out of them all" (Psalm 34:19). Even if they have to make some sacrifices, the Lord's going to repay them a hundred times over in this life (Mark 10:30). They can also have peace of mind, contentment of heart, and a feeling of genuine accomplishment for all they do for the Lord (Isaiah 26:3; John 14:27; Romans 5:1; Philippians 4:7).

They have the greatest power in the universe—God Himself—on their side. They can rest assured that no matter what happens, they're going to win in the long run. Regardless of how difficult the day-to-day battles may be or how heavy the fighting may get, they're going to win the overall war. The final victory is already theirs. They cannot lose because they're on the winning side!

They need to keep their eyes ahead on the eternal goal, as is brought out in the "faith" chapter, Hebrews 11: "By faith, by faith, by faith..." It says that all the great patriarchs of the Bible looked forward, through the eyes of faith.



They weren't satisfied with being a citizen of this world; they looked for a heavenly country, a heavenly city, made by the Lord. They were willing to go through trials and tribulations and be strangers and pilgrims here—people without a country—because they knew they had one coming and they knew it was worth fighting, living, suffering and sometimes even dying for! (Hebrews 11:13-16). Paul wrote, “I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us” (Romans 8:18).

New Christians need to realize that there's a war going on—a war of the worlds between the Devil's dominion and the kingdom of God—and they need to be prepared to fight in that war. They need to understand that they've joined the Lord's army and it's engaged in battle with the Devil and his evil works. It's a fight! After all, that's what armies are for—to fight battles. They're on the winning side, but they've still got to fight!

In the Lord's army, He often lets His soldiers go through some of the heaviest tests in the very beginning,

just like boot camp in the army, where new recruits experience some of the toughest training in order to weed out all those who just can't make it. The Lord allows the Devil to test the “recruits” to see if they can take it.

Serving the Lord is often a struggle, but we learn to like it because we know we're on the right side, the winning side, and we've got the right Commander, Jesus, who we're proud of and happy to live for and serve. We like the battle, just as an athlete likes the athletic trial. We like to fight the Devil and defeat him in the never-ending battle for the souls of men. We like the fight, the excitement and the exhilaration of victory on the battlefield.

The Lord says, “Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life” (Revelation 2:10). It reminds me of a story that was supposed to have taken place during the early days of Communist Russia, when Christians suffered terrible persecution. A platoon of soldiers rounded up some Christians and forced them to strip naked. Then the soldiers forced the Christians at gunpoint to go out onto a frozen lake. The

“Be faithful unto death, and I [Jesus] will give you the crown of life” [Revelation 2:10].

soldiers told them that if any of them wanted to save themselves from freezing to death, all they had to do was renounce their faith.

So the Christians froze and dropped one by one, until only one was left alive. He finally could not endure it anymore and stumbled across the ice toward the guards, screaming that he would deny his faith. As he approached the soldiers, one of them suddenly ran out onto the ice to meet him.

“Here, take my uniform! Take my gun!” exclaimed the guard. “I’m going out there to die in your place! I was watching all of you, and as each one dropped dead, I saw a crown placed on his head! But just as the hand was coming down from Heaven to place a crown on *your* head, you broke and ran. So here, take my uniform and my gun. I want

to take your place! I want that crown!”

There’s no crown without a cross, no testimony without a test, no triumph without a trial, no victory without a battle! Remember, that’s what you joined the army for—to fight and to *win!* So let’s get on with the battle! As long as you keep fighting, you’ll keep winning.

Take a lesson from John Paul Jones, the 18th century naval captain. His ship had been shot out from under him and was sinking. Half his men had been killed and many others had been wounded, including Jones himself. When the enemy captain called upon Jones to surrender, Jones screamed back, “Surrender? Hell no! We haven’t even *begun* to fight yet!” He refused to surrender and kept on fighting—and he eventually won the battle. That’s the kind of soldier who wins victories—the kind that refuses to stop fighting.

May God raise up soldiers who like to fight for the Lord with the weapon of His Word, who enjoy defeating the Devil, who know they can’t lose—conquering heroes who like to live and fight and sacrifice for Jesus and their brethren and the truth! That kind of soldier can’t be conquered. Even if they die fighting, they can’t lose, because they’ll get a crown of glory.

The Apostle Paul said, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness” (2 Timothy 4:7–8). Will *you* be able to say the same? ■



Transform your mind

MEMORIZATION tips

1 **Your memory can be developed like a muscle.** The more you use it, the stronger it gets; lack of use causes it to weaken.

2 **The more you concentrate, the easier it is to memorize.** Find a quiet place, free from distractions.

3 **Find the best time for you.** Most people find it easiest to memorize first thing in the morning, when their minds are rested. The evening is a good time to review what you memorized that day.

4 **Sight, sound and action.** *Read* what you are memorizing, *write* it out, and *quote* it out loud to yourself. Using these three methods together reinforces the memory process.

Why should we memorize Scriptures? There are many benefits! The Scriptures we “hide in our heart” will be a blessing to us all our lives; they’ll encourage our faith and help us recognize and thank the Lord for all He does for us. Memorization gives us a special closeness with Jesus, who *is* the Word (John 1:1–14). It is also easier to claim in prayer the promises that the Lord has made in His Word when we know these promises by heart (2 Peter 1:4).

Jesus said, “The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life” (John 6:63). The Word is what gives us life and food and nourishment and strength and spiritual health. If you are faithful to hide it in your heart, it will come to life for you! You’ll also always have it with you, whether you have a Bible on hand or not. This is very useful when witnessing to others.

As you delight yourself in the Word and meditate on it, the Lord will bless and prosper you, and you will be “like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season!” (Psalm 1:2–3).

5 **Memory work *is* work!** It does take a certain amount of determination and self-discipline on your part, but the more you do it, the easier it gets.

6 **Know you can.** God has given you a mind that’s more powerful than any computer. If you find it “impossible” to memorize, claim Philippians 4:13—“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”—and keep trying.

Try these verses for starters

7 **Set goals.** When getting started, try to memorize one verse every day, or one verse every two days. Have short-term and long-term memory projects.

8 **Be regular.** Find one or two time slots in your daily schedule that work well for you. Five minutes or so at a time is all it takes.

9 **Repetition is the law of memory.** The more you go over what you're memorizing, the quicker you'll learn it; the more often you review what you've already learned, the longer it will stick with you. Go over a new verse three times a day till you know it well, then once or twice a week for the next few weeks, then once or twice a month, etc. If you have difficulty quoting an "old" verse correctly, you need to review it more often.

10 **Try to learn the references too** (the book name, and the chapter and verse numbers where the verse appears in the Bible). This will come in handy when you want to find the verse later.

"Bind them [God's Words] continually upon your heart; tie them around your neck. When you roam, they will lead you; when you sleep, they will keep you; and when you awake, they will speak with you" (Proverbs 6:21-22). ■

For a listing of some of the most important verses in the Bible for memorization, arranged topically, order *Key Bible Verses*. You'll find this small booklet—in a handy shirt-pocket size that you can easily carry with you—to be an invaluable memorization aid.

John 3:16 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.

Acts 16:31 Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.

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.

SALVATION

John 14:26 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.

Acts 1:8 You shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me.

Acts 2:17 It shall come to pass in the Last Days, says God, that I will pour out of My Spirit on all flesh.

THE HOLY SPIRIT

Psalms 119:105 Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Matthew 24:35 Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.

John 6:63 It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life.

THE WORD OF GOD

Jeremiah 33:3 Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.

Matthew 7:7–8 Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

1 John 5:14 This is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us.

PRAYER

Answers

to your ? uestions...



I know the Bible says that Jesus forgave all my sins when I received Him as my Savior, but I still feel horrible about some of the things I did before I was saved. What can I do?

LET IT GO! Remorse can be a real problem because it so easily leads to depression. It also often greatly hinders many Christians' usefulness for the Lord, because they ask, "How could Jesus possibly use me or even *forgive* me when I can't forgive myself?"

But where we have problems, Jesus has solutions—and in this case the two-part solution is simple. Part one: Ask for and receive Jesus' forgiveness. He freely gives it to all who ask, whether you feel

worthy or not! Part two: Ask those you wronged to forgive you, and make restitution, if possible (Matthew 5:23–24).

Part one was taken care of once and for all the instant you received Jesus as your Savior and asked Him to forgive all your sins. "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). Part two may be a bit harder and more humbling, but once done, what a weight of condemnation it will lift!

The Lord has already forgiven and forgotten (Jeremiah 31:34), so now you need to forgive yourself, put it behind you and get on with your new life in Jesus.

That's what the Apostle Paul did—and if anyone ever had reason to feel remorseful, he did. Paul (born Saul) was present at the stoning of Stephen, the first Christian martyr (Acts 7:54–60; 8:1), and soon became a ringleader in the systematic persecution of Christians that followed (Acts 8:3; 9:1–4; 22:4–5). His actions were premeditated and brought great harm to many, but once Paul "saw the light" (Acts 9:3–6), he became a leader for the *right* cause and went on to do great things for the Lord.

What was his secret? "I am still not all I should be," he once explained, "but I am bringing all my energies to bear on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I strain to reach the end of the race and receive the prize for which God is calling us up to Heaven because of what Christ Jesus did for us" (Philippians 3:13–14 TLB). He had learned to let it go! ■



If you're loaded down with a bundle of remorse, you'll never get anywhere! Let it go—and you go on with the Lord!

Prayer for the Day

CONNECTIONS

We are a group of about 100 young people, aged 16 to 26, who formed a church four years ago. We gather in different houses, as we don't have a building for a church. Our church is the first evangelical church in our town. Someone recently gave us your address.

Please send us information, brochures and literature, because they don't print such materials here in Bulgaria. We need spiritual renewal in order to fulfill God's plan for us, and to proclaim the Gospel to more people. God bless you! We hope that He will bring many more people to salvation through you.

—**Aleksei, Bulgaria**

My sister is interested in religion, but with me it's more than merely being interested: I'm looking for the truth! I can

imagine the existence of a Superior Being. I'd rather think of Him as a helper, somebody I can lean on, as my Best Friend. I have a Bible, as well as a number of science books. Both have a place on my shelf next to each other, because I believe the duty of science is to prove that God exists.

—**Sanjay, India**

I'm so happy that there are people in this world like you who have not only found the way, but want to lead others along the narrow path that leads to love and happiness and eternal life in the kingdom of God.

—**John, USA**

*We would appreciate hearing from you too! If you would like to respond to any of the articles in **Activated!** or simply tell us more about yourself, please write, call or e-mail us today!*

Jesus, You're so kind and tender. I know that You have a special love for me. So many times when I have needed love or encouragement, You came through; You did something special that meant so much to me. It showed me that You really do care about the tiniest aspect of my life.

A jewel is a bit of ordinary earth that has passed through some extraordinary experiences.

Do not look at what you do not have, but keep your eyes upon Me and have faith in My promises. Have faith in My Words to you. Have faith in My voice speaking to your heart. Have faith in the love that you feel surrounding you.

When you are tempted to fear or doubt or worry, fix your eyes on Me and trust. When you are tempted to tremble, just trust in Me. When you are overwhelmed and the tears fall, keep trusting in Me. Trust Me through everything.

Trust that I know best. Trust in My wisdom. Trust in My ability to lead you and guide you and use you to the fullest. Trust in Me for the future. Trust that I will not fail you, and that I will fulfill all of My Words to you. Trust that I will not leave you comfortless. Trust that you will indeed feel My love and know My love in a greater way than before.

Trust that I will comfort you in the night when you feel that you have no one else. Trust that I am there by your side. Trust that I am able and will help you through this time of testing. Trust that I will not fail you, no matter what your mind tells you. Keep your eyes on Me and trust Me wholly.