

@ctivated

DO YOU FEED YOUR BODY BUT STARVE YOUR SOUL?

LONELINESS

AND THE CURE

WHY WE CRAVE TO
SHARE OUR JOYS AND
SORROWS WITH SOMEONE

GOD LEADS A PRETTY
SHELTERED LIFE

WHAT DOES GOD
KNOW ABOUT SUFFERING?

LOVELIGHT

THE SPIRITUAL ENERGY
ON WHICH LIFE DEPENDS.
THE SUN, THE MOON, AND US

GOD'S ONLY LAW ...

ARE THERE TEN
COMMANDMENTS OR TWO?

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personally speaking



There's the story of an orphan boy named Billy who sold newspapers on the street. One day a man stopped to buy a paper, and while the man was searching his pocket for a coin, he asked Billy where he lived.

"In a shack down by the river," Billy replied.

"Who lives with you?"

"Only Jim. Jim is crippled and can't do no work. He's my pal."

"Then you'd be better off without Jim, wouldn't you?" the man ventured.

Billy's answer came with some scorn. "No, sir. I couldn't spare Jim. I wouldn't have nobody to go home to. An' say, mister, I wouldn't want to live and work with nobody to divide with—would you?"

If you think about it, aren't we all like Billy? Don't we all need a friend—someone to talk to and do things with, who can share our thoughts and feelings and experiences, our ups and our downs, someone we can "divide" with?

Companionship is a basic human need, as important to most people's happiness and overall well-being as food, clothing, shelter, exercise, and sleep, yet each of us knows what it's like to be lonely. Sometimes the unfulfilled need for companionship, love and understanding can seem almost unbearable.

Why is that so? If God is love and He wants us to be happy, if He has promised to supply all of our needs as the Bible says, then why does He sometimes allow us to be lonely?

This issue of *activated* takes a look at loneliness from a perspective that you may have never considered. Find out how God can turn lonely times into fulfilling and happy ones.

Keith Phillips
Keith Phillips
For your activated family

“He who loses money loses much. He who loses friends loses more. But he who loses faith loses all.”

I saw just how true that saying is during a recent visit to one of Durban’s largest hospitals, where some other Family missionaries and I do volunteer work a few days each week.

Before each visit, we pray for the Lord to lead us to those He wants us to meet, those who are most in need of His love and comfort. This time it was a man in the cancer ward and his wife.

The man was sitting on his bed alone when I entered the room. His face lit up when I offered him a gospel poster—and what a beautiful

but had already lost her first husband and all four of her children. When this man, her second husband, had become sick a few years ago, he had had to sell his business and she had had to stop her work in order to care for him. Now they had absolutely nothing left. She needed medical care herself, but couldn’t even pay the two-dollar registration fee at this public hospital.

I gave her some money and told her it was a token of the Lord’s love for her. Then as she continued to tell me about her problems, I listened and tried to assure her of

the Lord’s love. “Even though we sometimes don’t understand His ways,” I said, “He has promised to never leave or forsake us. In the

end we will see that He was true to His promise.”

After an hour, her face began to brighten, and by the time I had to leave, the dying ember of her faith had been fanned back to life. “Faith comes from God’s Word, the Bible,” I explained. “That Book is full of promises from your heavenly Father, promises that you can claim for yourself and your husband when you pray.” I also gave her a list of key verses to take home, read, think about, and claim.

Her problems hadn’t changed in the space of those couple of hours, but she had found the faith to face them. To her husband’s delight, her bitterness and fear had been replaced by faith in her loving, caring Savior. ■

Never Forsaken

From Catherine Jane, South Africa

light that was! The cancer had wracked his jaw, and surgeons had performed reconstructive surgery, using half of his tongue and bone from one of his ribs. He was unable to speak, but his face continued to shine as he conveyed through impromptu sign language that he would die soon and go to Heaven.

A few moments later, his wife came in. She did not share his faith or his optimism. Bitterness had eaten away at her spirit like a cancer. She had been a Christian once, but had lost her faith when the Lord forsook her, she said. To her way of thinking, surely He had forsaken her; surely He didn’t love her, or He never would have let her suffer all that she had. As she told her story, my heart was filled with compassion for her.

She was only in her early fifties,

Loneliness

and the cure



By Virginia Brandt Berg

Virginia Brandt Berg (1886–1968) was a renowned evangelist and pastor, one of the first woman evangelists in America. For 15 years she hosted the pioneer gospel radio show *Meditation Moments*. The following is an edited transcript of one of her broadcasts.

There is a mystery in human hearts: To every one of us, from time to time, there comes a sense of utter loneliness.

Some of the loneliest people in the world are those who are constantly surrounded by others, yet they feel that no one knows or understands the “real me.” They may even have an abundance of material things—everything to satisfy every physical need—yet they complain of loneliness. They long to share their interests with someone, to find someone who will listen to their problems and sympathize with

them.

We may have a lifelong companion or close dear friends who love us well and are loved by us, but even they will never know or understand us completely. We may climb the heights of success or accomplishment, yet there is no one who can fully share the emotion of that moment when we finally reach our goal. Our dearest friend is a stranger to our supreme joy, and cannot realize our bitter pain. Some tears are always shed alone. No other human being can ever enter the deepest recesses of our mind or heart or soul.

“There is no one who really understands, no one to share all I feel!” Such is the cry of each of us, in turn. We wander in a solitary way, no matter what or where our lot may be. Each heart, mysterious even to itself, must live its inner life in solitude.

But why? Why do we all have this deep craving to be understood by someone? Why this intense longing to have another share our joys and triumphs, sorrows, and defeats?

Did God, who made us a living soul, make some mistake in this, His masterpiece—humankind? Has He left some void in our makeup?

He made provision for every other hunger of life: bread for the hunger of the body, knowledge for the hunger of the mind, love for the hunger of the heart. Has He then left the soul unsatisfied, this longing for deepest understanding and truest companionship unfulfilled? Has He left this loneliness of ours unanswered?

There is an answer to these questions. This lack that we feel, this incompleteness, is a need of our soul for God. He knew that when we found human sympathy lacking, we would seek the divine. He knew that this very sense of isolation, of not being understood, would drive us to Him.

God made us for Himself. He desires our love. He put a little sign on the table of your heart, which reads, “Reserved for Me.” In every heart, He wishes to be first. He therefore keeps the secret key Himself, the key to open all our hearts’ chambers and to bless with perfect sympathy and peace each solitary soul that comes to Him.

God Himself is the answer, the fulfillment. Not until He Himself fills that inner longing will we ever be truly satisfied. Not until He fills our life will we ever be completely free from loneliness.

The Apostle Paul wrote, “We do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all

That’s the wonderful thing about having Jesus in your heart: You’ll never again be completely alone, because you’ll always have Jesus. Even when everything else is passed away, you’ll still have Jesus. When all others forsake you, there will still be Jesus. When the loves of this world and your friends desert you, you’ll still have Jesus. Jesus promised, “I am with you always, even to the end of the world” (Matthew 28:20 TLB). When the world has nothing left for you, you’ll still have Jesus—and Jesus is all you really need!

—David Brandt Berg

points tempted as we are, yet without sin” (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus is touched with our every longing. As He enters our life, He becomes our satisfaction. God’s Word says He is a “satisfying portion” (Psalm 107:9; Psalm 73:26). He’ll satisfy every longing of our heart.

God is big enough, great enough to fill any soul. He is complete companionship, ideal and perfect friendship. He who made you is the only One who can fill every part of your life. There’s no need to ever be lonely. Jesus said, “I will never leave you nor forsake you,” and “I am with you always” (Hebrews 13:5; Matthew 28:20).

So when you feel this loneliness, it is the voice of Jesus saying, “Come to Me.” And every time you feel that no one understands, it is a call for you to come to Him again. And when beneath some heavy load you faint and say, “I cannot bear this alone,” you say the truth. Christ allowed it purposely—so heavy that you must return to Him. The grief that no one understands conveys a secret message from the King, entreating you to come to Him again. You cannot come too often.

His presence satisfies the lonely soul, and those who walk with Him from day to day can never know a solitary way. ■



Sometimes I feel like I'm being overcome with worries. What can I do to stop worrying so much?

Who doesn't worry sometimes? We worry about what's going to happen in the world. We worry about failing in school or in our work. We worry that we won't be able to make ends meet financially. We worry about losing the ones we love. We worry about our future. We worry about so many things!

Most worries come down to one of two things: fretting about past failures and situations gone wrong, and fearing the future.

How can we keep such fears from affecting us? One good answer can be found in a most unexpected place—modern ocean liners. They are constructed in such a way that in case of fire or serious leakage, watertight, fireproof steel doors can be closed to seal off the damaged compartment from the others and contain the problem, so the ship can stay afloat.

So it should be in the “ship” of our lives. In order to make the most of today and best prepare for the future, we have to learn to seal ourselves off from worries about yesterday with its mistakes and failures, as well as from needless fears about tomorrow. Otherwise our worries may cause us to go under!

Jesus said, “Do not worry about tomorrow. Each day has enough trouble of its own” (Matthew 6:34

NIV). Have you ever noticed that it's the things that never happen that seem to worry us the most? Like the writer and humorist Mark Twain said toward the end of his life, “I'm an old man, and I've had many troubles—most of which never happened!”

One businessman drew up what he called a “worry chart,” where he kept a record of his fears. He discovered that 40% of them were about things that probably would never happen, 30% concerned past decisions that he could not change, 12% had to do with other people's criticism of him, and 10% were unfounded worries about his health. He concluded that there were valid reasons for only 8% of his worries.

As Christians we don't have to fear or worry about anything, because we know that “all things work together for good to those who love the Lord” (Romans 8:28). The famous evangelist Dwight L. Moody (1837–1899) used to say, “You can travel first class or second class to Heaven. Second class is, ‘What time I am afraid, I will trust’ (Psalm 56:3), and first class is, ‘I will trust, and not be afraid’ (Isaiah 12:2). So why not buy a first class ticket?” ■

Worry is like a rocking chair; it gives you something to do, but it never gets you anywhere.

Young Mrs. Benson had been so miserable! Her husband was away, sent by his firm for a “refresher course,” and for the first time in her married life Mrs. Benson had been left on her own. My wife popped in to try to cheer her up, but to her surprise, Mrs. Benson met her with a smile on her face.

“I’ve had another visitor,” she explained. “She made me feel so ashamed—but I’m so glad.”

My wife couldn’t quite understand what Mrs. Benson meant.

“It was the woman from around the corner,” she explained. “Her husband was killed recently in a car accident and she’s been left with three small daughters. To think that in her trouble she could remember to look in to see how I was! Suddenly she made me feel like the most blessed woman in the world.”

Mrs. Benson was silent for a moment. Then she added quietly, “I think I’ve learned something. Perhaps the only way to cure your own unhappiness is by trying to help someone else in theirs.”

—FRANCIS GAY

About 200 years ago, a well-known encyclopedia’s article on the atom was only four lines long, but five pages were devoted to “love.” In a recent edition of the same encyclopedia, the article on the atom was five pages long; “love” was omitted. What a sad commentary on modern values!

PRAYER FOR THE DAY:

Jesus, sometimes I get all wound up and worried, but when I stop and give my problems to You to work out, You always do—starting with me. You remind me that everything’s under Your control, that You’re right here with me to help, and that nothing is too hard for You. You take everything so calmly and approach every problem so positively that my worries and fears just melt away. You replace them with faith and trust in You, and that makes all the difference in the world!

I need Your help again, Jesus. I give my latest batch of worries to You, and receive Your perfect peace in exchange. Thank You Jesus!

Wouldn’t it be wonderful if everyone would simply do what Jesus said to do—love our neighbors as ourselves? (Matthew 22:39). But when people don’t treat others with much love, they’re going to have problems—and they



do! It can safely be said that all of the evils in the world today have their root cause in people’s lack of love for God and each other.

Nevertheless, the simple love of God and each other is still God’s solution, even in such a complex, confused and highly complicated society as that of the world today. If we love God, we can love and respect each other. We can then follow His rules of life, liberty, and the possession of happiness, and all will be well and happy in Him.

So let’s ask God to help us love our neighbors with His love. And remember, “neighbor” doesn’t only mean the one who lives next door. It is anyone we meet who needs our help, regardless of race, creed, color, or nationality.

GOD LEADS A PRETTY SHELTERED LIFE



BILLIONS of people were scattered on a great plain before God's throne. Some of the groups near the front talked heatedly—not with cringing shame, but with belligerence.

"How can God judge us?" someone asked.

"What does He know about suffering?" snapped an old woman. She jerked back a sleeve to reveal a tattooed number from a Nazi concentration camp. "We endured terror, beatings, torture, death!"

In another group a black man lowered his collar, "What about this?" he demanded, showing an ugly rope burn. "Lynched for no crime but being black! My people have been wrenched from loved ones, have suffocated in slave ships, and have been worked like animals till death gave release."

Far out across the plain were hundreds of such groups. Each had a complaint against God for the evil and suffering He permitted

in His world. How lucky God was to live in Heaven where there was no weeping, no fear, no hunger, no hatred!

Indeed, what did God know about what man had been forced to endure in this world? "After all, God leads a pretty sheltered life," they said.

So each group sent out a spokesperson, chosen because he or she had suffered the most. There was a Jew, a black, an untouchable from India, an illegitimate, a radiation casualty from the Hiroshima bombing, a prisoner from a Siberian gulag, and on it went.

In the center of the plain they consulted with each other. At last they were ready to present their case. It was rather simple: Before God would be qualified to be their judge, He must endure what they had endured. Their decision was that God should be sentenced to live on Earth as a man. But because He was God, they set certain safe-

Never Alone

feeding reading

guards to be sure He could not use His divine powers to help Himself:

Let Him be born a Jew.

Let the legitimacy of His birth be doubted, so that none would know who His Father was.

Let Him champion a cause so just but so radical that it would bring down upon Him hate and condemnation and cause the leaders of every major religion to seek to eliminate Him.

Let Him try to describe what no man has ever seen, felt, tasted, heard, or smelled. Let Him try to communicate God to men.

Let Him be betrayed by one of His dearest friends.

Let Him be indicted on false charges, tried before a prejudiced jury, and convicted by a cowardly judge.

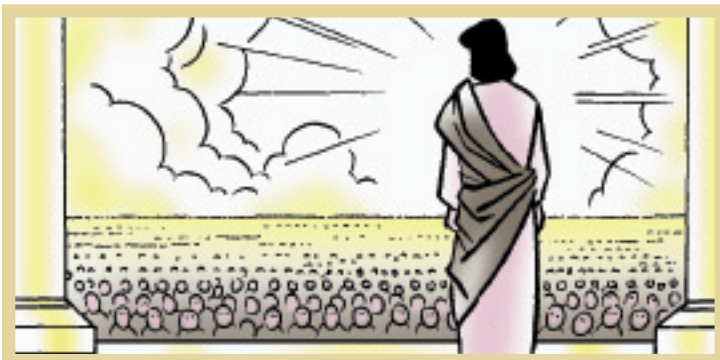
Let Him see what it is like to be terribly alone and completely abandoned by every living thing.

Let Him be tortured, and let Him die the most humiliating death, with common criminals.

As each leader announced his portion of the sentence, loud murmurs of approval went up from the great throngs of people assembled before God's throne.

But when the last had finished, there was a long silence. No one uttered another word. No one moved. For suddenly all knew ... God had already served His sentence.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN



We all experience loneliness at some time in our lives, but there are many promises in the Bible that can help us through those lonely times.

Once we have Jesus in our hearts, we always have His company and love.

John 14:18

Matthew 28:20b

Romans 8:38–39

Hebrews 13:5

Though earthly companionships may fail, the Lord never fails.

Psalms 38:11,15

Psalms 142:4–5

Isaiah 49:15–16

2 Timothy 4:16–17a

Sometimes the Lord lets us feel lonely to drive us closer to Him.

Psalms 63:1,5–7

Psalms 73:25–26, 28

Philippians 3:8

Colossians 2:10

Even Jesus felt lonely and forsaken at times.

Isaiah 53:3–4,6

Matthew 27:46

John 1:10–11

Hebrews 4:15

Reaching out to others and being a friend is an antidote to loneliness.

Proverbs 11:25

Proverbs 18:24a

1 Thessalonians 3:12a

GOD'S

ONLY LAW IS

LOVE!

**“The Law
was given
by Moses,
but grace
and truth
came by
Jesus
Christ”
(John 1:17 KJV).**

In the beginning, God created us to freely choose to love and obey Him as His grateful children. He preferred that our obedience to Him be out of love, and thus there were very few rules. Everything was to be done voluntarily, because we loved and respected Him and appreciated His love and care. That was God's original plan.

But as people became more and more disobedient and evil, God had to give them more and more stringent laws and regulations, which are found in the Old Testament, primarily the first five books of Moses. These laws were not made for the righteous, because truly good people don't harm or do wrong to their neighbors; their actions are governed by love and consideration. God's laws were made for the wrongdoers.

Because people didn't act out of love, God had to crack down with the law—rules for

the transgressors. But the rules couldn't actually save anyone; they only showed them where they were wrong. “No one can ever be made right in God's sight by doing what the law commands. For the more we know of God's laws, the clearer it becomes that we aren't obeying them; His laws serve only to make us see that we are sinners” (Romans 3:20 TLB). “There is none righteous, no, not one! For all have sinned and fall short” (Romans 3:10,23).

The Old Testament Law was only our teacher, our instructor or “tutor,” as the Bible says, to show us that we're sinners, to make us realize that we need to go to God for mercy and forgiveness, so that we might be reconciled and receive His goodness through faith (Galatians 3:24).

Like any parent, God far prefers that His children will-

ingly and cheerfully obey Him and do what He asks simply because they love Him and want to please Him and do what's right. If a child only obeys because he's forced to obey or because of fear of punishment, that's no proof of the child's love for his parent.

When the religious leaders asked Jesus which was the greatest commandment in the Law, He replied, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Matthew 22:37-39).

He then shocked them by saying, "On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 22:40). ("Law" refers to the five books of Moses, and "Prophets" to the other books written by the prophets of the Old Testament.) There were many hundreds of complicated, ritualistic, restrictive religious laws, but Jesus told them that they now only needed two: Love God, and love others. That's it! He said that was all the law they needed—love! And that's just as true today as it was then. If we truly love God and others, we're not going to be selfish, act irresponsibly, or do anything else that will hurt anybody.

Therefore Jesus' Law of Love frees us from the old Mosaic Law. God's only law is love, and as long as something is done in real, unselfish, sac-

rificial love—God's love—then it's lawful in God's eyes. The Bible says, "The fruit of the Spirit is love. . . . Against such there is no law" (Galatians 5:22-23). Against pure love, unselfish sacrificial love for God and our fellow man, there is no law of God.

"For all the Law is fulfilled in one word, even in this: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself'" (Galatians 5:14). Think about it—all the Law is fulfilled by one new and glorious commandment: Love! "Therefore, whatever you want men to do to you, do also to them, for this is [sums up] the Law and the Prophets" (Matthew 7:12). We are to "owe no one anything except to love one another, for he who loves another has fulfilled the law" (Romans 13:8). If you act in love, you are fulfilling all the laws of God!

In many ways the Law of Love is actually more binding than the Mosaic Law—the hundreds of laws of the Old Testament, which are often summarized by the Ten Commandments—because it says that not only can you not do bad things to others, but that you've also got to love everybody. Under Jesus' Law of Love, we are to go beyond mere justice and righteousness; we are to have love and mercy and forgiveness.

Love is greater than righteousness, and mercy is greater than justice. We are now to treat others with love, mercy,

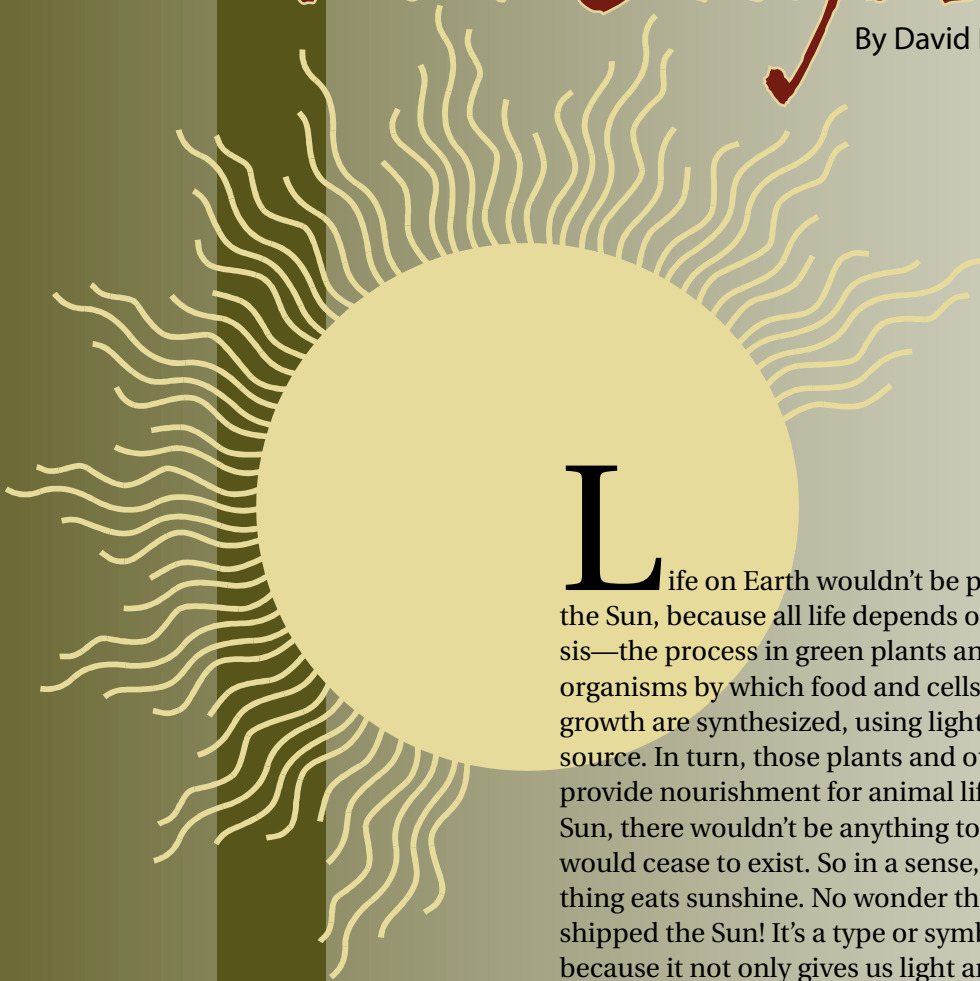
and kindness. In the Mosaic Law there was virtually no forgiving. It was "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth" (Exodus 21:24; Leviticus 24:20). Moses said that if someone knocked out our tooth, we were allowed to knock out his. But Jesus said that we should treat even those who harm us the way we would want them to treat us. This is God's love.

So the Law of Love is actually much stricter and more difficult to keep—in fact, it's impossible to keep without Jesus! If the old Law was impossible, then Jesus' Law of Love is even more impossible! That's why He says, "Without Me, you can do nothing" (John 15:5). You can't possibly keep His Law of Love without His power. Unless you have Jesus in your heart and God's love within you, you will never be able to truly love others as much as you love yourself. But once you have received Jesus, then His Spirit in you can help you do the humanly impossible: Love God with all your heart, and love your neighbor as yourself.

Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Savior? Do you have the Spirit of God's love living in your heart? Do you love the Lord and others as much as you do yourself? Do you "do to others as you would have them do unto you"? If so, you are free from the old Mosaic Law. Now all you must do is keep Jesus' Law of Love. ■

Lovelight

By David Brandt Berg



Life on Earth wouldn't be possible without the Sun, because all life depends on photosynthesis—the process in green plants and certain other organisms by which food and cells needed for growth are synthesized, using light as an energy source. In turn, those plants and other organisms provide nourishment for animal life. Without the Sun, there wouldn't be anything to eat and all life would cease to exist. So in a sense, every living thing eats sunshine. No wonder the ancients worshipped the Sun! It's a type or symbol of God because it not only gives us light and warmth, but it actually manufactures the food that we eat.

Without the warmth of the Sun, Earth would be too cold to support life—like on the dark side of the Moon and other places in space that are shielded from the Sun's rays, where temperatures are hundreds of degrees below zero.

The Sun's gravitational pull also keeps Earth in its orbit. It keeps the whole world on the right track.

The Sun performs these four major functions: It gives light, supplies warmth, produces food, and provides the gravitational pull needed to keep Earth in orbit. Now if the Sun has that much power, think how much spiritual power our spiritual sun, God, has!

What does it all mean?

God's physical creation often illustrates spiritual truths, and I'm sure He created the Sun, the Moon, the stars, Earth and the other planets the way He did in part to help us better understand our relationship with Him.

God is a Spirit, and the Bible also says that He is light (John 4:24; 1 John 1:5). If He is both of those things and if light can be powerful energy, as science has proven, then the Spirit of God can also be powerful energy—spiritual energy.

Without the light of the Sun, we'd be in total darkness, except for starlight. Even the Moon wouldn't shine without the Sun, because the Moon has no light of its own; it only reflects the light of the Sun. Just so, if it weren't for the Lord we would be in almost total spiritual darkness.

Without the warmth of the Sun's rays, we'd also freeze to death. In fact, we'd freeze solid! Without the Lord, we'd all be dead cold spiritually.

Without the Sun's rays, there would be no food, and without the Lord to feed us spiritually, our spirits would die of hunger.

Finally, without the Sun's gravitational pull, instead of staying in its well-planned orbit, Earth would go wandering off through space and probably crash into some other astral body eventually. Without God's guidance, His gravitational pull on us in the spiritual world, we too would certainly get out of the well-planned orbit of His will—our proper spiritual orbit—and we'd go wandering off into the darkness of spiritual space and probably crack up somewhere.

Wandering off in spiritual darkness is like being out of orbit, having no direction, no guidance—lost in space! That's what people who don't have the Lord are like: They're lost in spiritual space, spiritual darkness. Cold, hungry people are wandering around in darkness without God, just as Earth would be without the Sun.

God even calls the wayward angels, the rebellious angels and spiritual powers of the Devil "wandering stars" (Jude 6,13). They've tried to run away from His control. They've left their center and gotten out of orbit. In their rebellion, they're wandering off, lost in space!

That has the most horrible sound to it—"lost in space"—wandering off through the vast darkness of space, so alone! It's just like people without the

Lord—freezing, starving, blind, and lost.

Let it shine!

God is our sun; we are His moon. We merely reflect His light. And when should we reflect His light the most? When does the Moon shine brightest? At night, when the Sun is out of sight. As the world slips deeper and deeper into spiritual darkness, so we must keep on shining and lighting the world with His reflected light.

We are also like the Sun's rays. Each of us who has received Jesus as our Savior is like a sunbeam, a little ray of sunshine coming from the Lord. Each of us has become part of His light and part of His power, spiritually.

The Bible tells us that God is also love (1 John 4:8). Love is the power and light of God. So when you give God's love to people, you're showing them His light.

God's Spirit of love and power and light will lead you to those who especially need your loving help and who will respond in loving appreciation, just as it will also lead them to you.

Have you got God's love-light? You do if you have Him! Jesus is the ultimate expression of God's love, and if you have Jesus, you have God's lovelight too!■

HOW CAN ONE PERSON MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Lord, help me live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way,
That even when I kneel to pray,
My prayers will be for others.

Help me in all the work I do
To ever be sincere and true,
And know that all I do for You
Has to be done for others.

Let self be crucified and slain
And buried deep, and all in vain
May efforts be to rise again—
Unless to live for others.

And when my work on Earth is done,
And my new work in Heaven begun,
May I forget the crown I've won
While thinking still of others.

Others, Lord, yes, others!—
Let this my motto be.
Help me to live for others,
That I may live like Thee.

Elizabeth A.
Fenley

for **OTHERS**

What does love look like? It has hands to help others. It has feet to go to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and sadness. It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men. That is what love looks like.



God cares for people through people.



Even the little things you do can mean a lot: A little bit of love goes such a long way! The light of your smile, the kindness of your face, the influence of your life, can shed light on many and have an amazing effect on some people you think might be the least likely to be impressed.

When people feel your love and you tell them it's God's love, they can't help but think, "Maybe somebody up There does love me!" It can change their whole outlook on life.

So many people are searching for love! People everywhere are looking around for some little ray of hope, some salvation, some bright spot somewhere—a little love, a little mercy, someplace where they can find some relief. If you can show them that love exists, then they can believe that God exists, because "God is love!" (1 John 4:8).

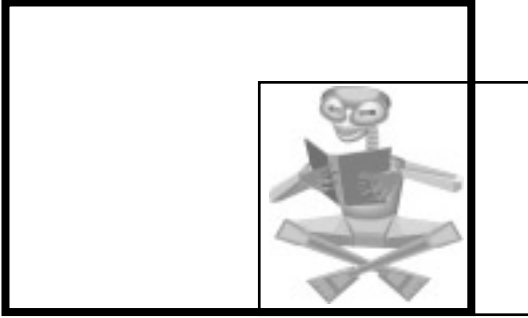
—D.B.B.



Stephen Grellet was a French-born Quaker who died in the U.S. in 1855. Grellet would be unknown to the world today except for a short prayer he wrote, which lives on:

"I shall pass through this world but once. Any good that I can do, or any kindness that I can show to any human being, let me do it now and not delay it. For I shall not pass this way again."

SIGNS OF THE TIMES



WASHINGTON POST SERVICE

Institutions and individuals alike are coping with a deluge of books, journals, tapes, legal records, documents, electronic mail and torrents of raw data. The Library of Congress has 113 million items, and every morning 20,000 more pour into the loading dock. Every day, James Billington, the librarian of Congress, worries about issues such as shelving and preservation, but he also worries about broader philosophical matters, such as: Are we truly wiser with all this information?

**Is the
Information
Age Making
Us Any
Wiser?**

In 1472 the library at Queens' College in Cambridge, England, had 199 books. At the height of the Renaissance there were people who could claim plausibly to have read every important book ever written.

Today, no one can read everything. The world of knowledge is a vast ocean; the best you can do is occasionally go for a swim.

More than 50,000 books are published every year in America alone. The number of journals published globally is estimated at 400,000. Soon every home will have access to hundreds of television channels. The worldwide Web now has millions of sites.

"It's significant that we call it the Information Age," Mr. Billington said. "We don't talk about the Knowledge Age."

Mr. Billington subscribes to a formula: Raw data can be turned into information, which then, through much added effort and value, can rise to the level of knowledge, which is the foundation for wisdom. But he says that in this era of data overload, we may be going in the wrong direction. "Our society is basically motion without memory," Mr. Billington said. "Which, of course, is one of the clinical definitions of insanity."

(Activated editor:) The world is going insane because more and more people, especially in the West, are sometimes thoughtlessly embracing modern knowledge without at the same time retaining the wisdom of the past. They are forsaking righteousness, civility, godliness, love, concern, and care for their neighbor in their attempts to shape a "brave new world" based on technology.

There's nothing wrong with technology if it's used to the right ends, but when society is based only on technology and knowledge rather than godliness and God's wisdom, then the foundation of that society is built on sand. No matter how nice the resulting building looks, it won't last. Only those who've built their house on the rock Christ Jesus will endure (Matthew 7:24–27).

I'M ALWAYS HERE FOR YOU

Turn to Me in your loneliness. I love you dearly, and I am there for you anytime, all the time. I am your constant companion, your best friend.

When you feel like no one cares and there is no love to be found, that is the time to lie back in My arms and find peace. When you are discouraged and feel like a mess, look into My face and see Me smile upon you, for I love you just the way you are. When you feel worried or frustrated, run to Me. I will be your perfect companion. When you feel that no one can possibly understand the difficulties you are passing through, that is the time to run to Me. I always understand. Set your affections on Me, and I will fill your every need.

In those special times together, our love will grow stronger and our relationship deeper than any earthly love or relationship could ever be. From this oneness with Me will grow your greatest and most lasting happiness, fulfillment and contentment.

Love, Jesus



From Jesus with Love