


# activated

CHANGE YOUR LIFE. CHANGE YOUR WORLD.



Jesus: Rough day?  
Lisa: Yes.  
Lisa: Everything's  
going wrong.  
Jesus: Want to talk  
about it?

## E-MAILING JESUS

It couldn't be easier!

## STOP! LOOK! LISTEN!

How to get the most out of  
prayer

## PUT GOD ON THE SPOT

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## personally speaking



If you use the Internet you know what a quick and easy source of information it can be. Instead of trekking to a library to locate and pore over stacks of books and other printed material, you can find what you need right from home or work by simply accessing an Internet search engine, typing a few key words, and clicking "search." Within seconds, links to numerous Web sites related to whatever it is you're looking for appear on your computer screen. Admittedly it's a bit hit and miss and you may still need to skim quite a bit of material to find the specific information you're looking for—like you used to have to do with those stacks of books—but the Internet puts a world of information at your fingertips.

Wouldn't it be great, though, if instead of merely supplying you with information, the Internet could actually solve your problems, answer your really deep questions, help organize and direct your daily life, and satisfy your emotional and spiritual needs? The Internet will never be able to do all those things, of course, but God can! Not only that, but God is even quicker and easier to access than the Internet and He included all the needed hardware and software when He created you. You can reach Him anytime, from anywhere, for free, and it's *never* hit and miss. He always knows exactly what you need.

All you need to power up your system is faith. You get that faith by simply reading up on your equipment in the Maker's manual, the Bible. Faith-building tips and testimonials can also be found in feedback from those who are already powered up and enjoying the benefits, like the articles you'll find in this issue of *Activated*. Connect with our interactive God, and you too can receive, enjoy, and benefit from all He has to offer—which is everything!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Phillips". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Keith Phillips

For your *Activated* family

# TIME OUT

By Nyx Martinez

## **My mind raced. Two o'clock.**

I had just finished my business appointments and suddenly realized how little cash I had on me. At the mall with only a few cents in my pocket, I was half an hour from my workshop at the voice academy. Without bus fare, I wasn't going to make it. I didn't even have enough to get home.

I paced through the mall, frantic, desperate, frustrated. *How did I get myself into this mess?*

Then, amid the inner turmoil came a familiar voice. *Stop! Yes, just stop and listen.*

To what? I fired back.

*Listen to Me. And listen to yourself freaking out like that! The worst thing in the world is to keep on going when you don't know what to do.*

Jesus had my attention. *Okay, Lord, You're right.—I don't know what to do, I confessed.*

*So stop. And trust Me.*

It seemed to make sense. What did I have to lose? I stopped and prayed, "Dear Jesus, I'm *trying* to trust You. Please, help me out." What I wanted, of course, was to see

some money appear out of nowhere. *It doesn't have to be a lot—just enough to get me to the voice academy and home.*

I looked around for something—anything. Nothing. I felt stupid. Still, I really should give the Lord more than a few seconds to answer my prayer.

*Trust Me, He said again. There's plenty of time before your workshop starts.*

*Plenty of time for a miracle?* I wasn't so sure.

I slowed my pace to "trusting" speed and hoped that would also calm my racing spirit. The frustration eased. I even started to sing to myself. The voice seemed to be directing my steps, telling me what corners to turn in the huge mall.

Then there they were, sitting inside a restaurant right in front of me. I had met Joy and Honey just weeks before. They were runway and commercial models, the only female identical twins in the local industry. They spotted me and waved, excited about this chance encounter.

Or was it?

An hour later, we said goodbye and I was on my way. Jesus had indeed dropped money out of nowhere, but in His own way. Joy had asked me to sketch them together and insisted on paying for the on-the-spot portrait.

I now had the cash I needed. I made it to my workshop with time to spare. I made it safely home. And I had that little voice to thank.

Now when my head is spinning out of control—*Now how did I get myself into this mess?*—I know that all I have to do is to take time out, to stop and listen and get the Lord's help. •





# Stop! ... Look! ... Listen!


By David Brandt Berg

**You cannot do the  
Master's work without  
the Master's power, and  
to get it, you must spend  
time with the Master.**

**People would make better decisions** and arrive at them a lot easier if, instead of trying to reason things out themselves, they would *pray*. God has all the answers. Prayer is not just getting down on your knees and speaking your piece, but more importantly, letting God speak His. If you'll do that, He'll tell you what to do.

If you really want to hear the Lord, He will talk to you. But in order for Him to get through, you're going to have to get quiet by yourself, somewhere, somehow, sometime. He says, "Be still, and know that I am God" (Psalm 46:10). "In quietness and confidence shall be your strength" (Isaiah 30:15). How many "quiet times" do you have?





## When you truly trust the Lord, you can have peace in the midst of storm.

You don't have to be down on your hands and knees, praying frantically, to be heard by God. Prayer should be something you're doing all the time, no matter what else you're doing. Quiet times are important, but you can't always wait until conditions are perfect or you're through doing this or that to pray. Sometimes you have to pray as you go. It's like thinking on your feet.

If you're confused, worrying, fretting, and fuming, then you're not trusting. You don't have the faith you ought to have. Trusting is a picture of complete rest and peace of mind, heart, and spirit. You may have to continue working, but your attitude and spirit is calm.

When you truly trust the Lord, you can have peace in the midst of storm and calm in the eye of the hurricane. It reminds me of an art contest that was held in which the artists were asked to illustrate peace. Most of the contestants handed in paintings of quiet, calm scenes of the countryside—absolute tranquility. Well, that's a form of peace, but the hardest kind of peace to have was illustrated in the picture that won the award. It depicted the roaring, foaming torrents of a storm-swollen river, and on a little tree branch overhanging the rapids was a nest where a tiny bird sat, peacefully singing in spite of the

raging river. That's when your faith gets tested, in the midst of turmoil.

Look at all the people in the Bible who had to learn to hear from God, and to wait for Him to work—David, Moses, Noah, Abraham, the apostle John, and Jesus Himself, to name a few.

David spent 24 years working under blunderbuss King Saul, and the Lord really taught him a lot from Saul's bad example. Saul often became impatient and tried to do things in his own strength, and he found he wasn't strong enough. David learned that he had to let God do everything, and wait for Him.

When Moses was a smart young man, 40 years of age, he really thought he knew how to do the job—but he made a terrible mess out of it and had to run for his life! It took God 40 years to straighten Moses out and show him that he had to depend on Him (Exodus chapters 2 and 3).

Later, Moses had several million people sitting out in the middle of the desert, waiting for him and wondering, "What are we going to eat? What are we going to drink? Where are we going? What are we going to do?" And what did Moses do? He climbed to the top of a mountain and stayed there alone with the Lord for 40 days!

What if he had been fretting all the time, "What if something happens? I have to get back. What if Aaron makes a golden calf?"—Which he did! And when Moses did get upset, he broke the stone tablets on which God had written the Ten



**If you're too**

**busy to pray,**

**you're too busy.**

Commandments and had to go back up the mountain and get quiet for another 40 days to receive them from God again (Exodus 24:12–18, and chapters 32 and 34).

It took Noah 120 years to build the Ark. I wonder how much of that was spent in prayer. He must have taken some time with the Lord, or he never could have gotten all the precise instructions on how to build the vessel. God probably gave him the exact specifications for every part of that boat. Noah just went calmly about his business, building the Ark. He could have panicked and hastily slapped it together, thinking rain was coming any minute, but he didn't. Many of us would probably think we were spending a lot of time preparing for something if we just spent 120 days on it, but Noah spent 120 years hearing from the Lord and building the Ark. Noah had faith! (Genesis 6:11–22 and chapter 7; Hebrews 11:7).

Think of the years Abraham, “the father of faith” (Romans 4:11,16), spent out in the fields watching flocks. No wonder he heard from the Lord; he had time to listen.

Jesus spent 30 years of His life in preparation and only a little over three years in His public ministry. On the eve of His ministry, He went out and spent 40 days and nights in the wilderness, being tested by the Devil. He had to defeat the Devil first (Matthew 4:1–11). If you don't get alone with the Lord and beat the Devil first, you won't get far.

The apostle John wrote the Gospel of John, and it must have taken some time with the Lord to do

it. However, John's greatest masterpiece, the book of Revelation, was virtually written by the Lord Himself while John was banished on the Mediterranean island of Patmos. John's biggest work was just letting the Lord do all the directing, the speaking, the revealing—everything!

Farmers need a lot of patience and faith. They can't expect everything in one day, but must patiently wait for the plants to grow and the animals to produce. God does the biggest part of the job: He sends the sun and rain and makes the crops grow, and He's the One who causes the animals to produce. About all the farmer can do is trust the Lord and not worry about it. We should take a lesson from the farmer.

Some people have to be in motion all the time; they've got to be doing something. But if you're too busy to pray, you're too busy! If you're too busy to get alone with God and pray, you're too busy! It's as if a servant told his king, “I'm sorry, I can't come and listen to your orders today because I'm too busy serving you.” The most important job you have is listening to the King of kings.

It's not up to the king to go chasing after his subjects, screaming and hollering at them to try to get them to follow his instructions. Rather, his subjects should come to him with quietness and respect, present their petitions and then wait silently for the king's answer. You need to respect and reverence the Lord, and treat Him like the king He is.

You show that you have faith by stopping your own activity and waiting for God to work. “Be still and know that I am God” (Psalm

46:10). “Study to be quiet” (1 Thesalonians 4:11 KJV). “Let all the earth keep silence before Him” (Habakkuk 2:20). There was even silence in Heaven on one occasion (Revelation 8:1).

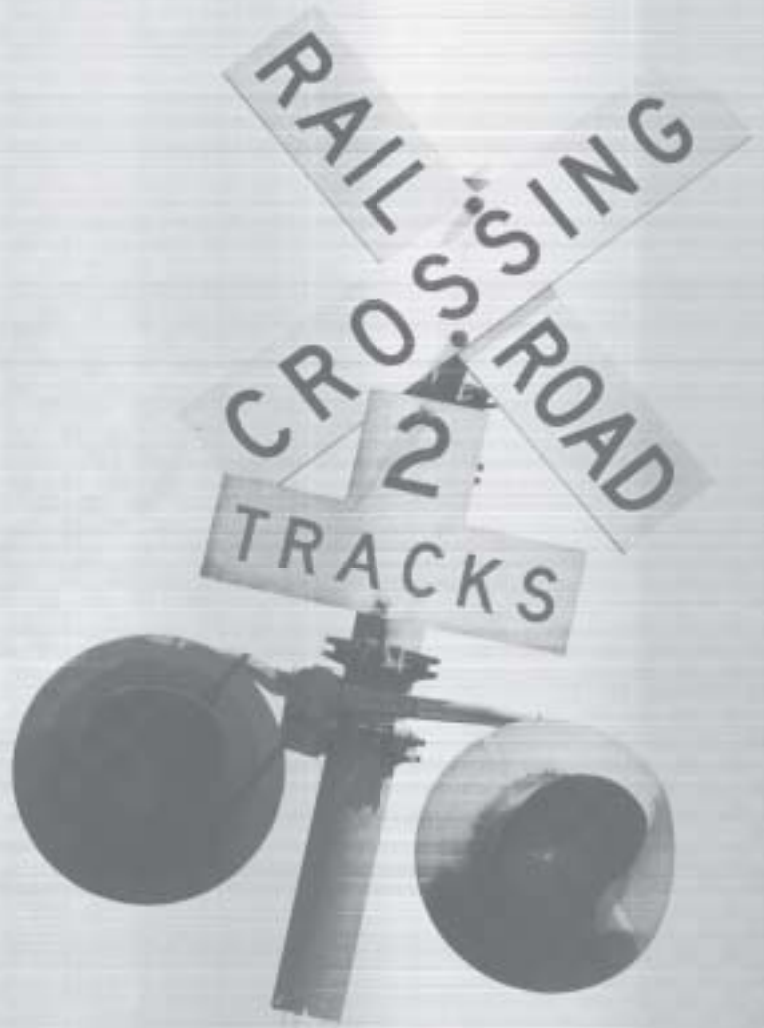
But the world is always in a hurry. That’s the Devil’s own plan: Speed up the world—anything to make everything move faster. The earth has hardly varied in its speed since God created it. God isn’t in a hurry. He hasn’t sped up the days or seasons, but man is speeding up things—and the result is a world hell-bent for destruction.

So let’s try to slow things down. Relax! But most of all, stop, look, listen ... and wait. Warning signs like this are posted at dangerous places such as railroad crossings—places of crisis where there is an interruption of your routine, your way, your road—otherwise you might drive across the tracks when a train is coming and get hit.

“But,” you say, “I don’t have time to stop, look, and listen!” Well, if you don’t, you may never make it. Which is easier, to try to beat the train, to try to plow through the train, to jump over the train, or to stop for a few minutes and watch it go by? It will soon be gone, and you can go peacefully on your way.

Trying to force the situation just won’t work! It doesn’t pay to rush around trying to get someplace or to do something when you’re supposed to be waiting on the Lord to find out where He wants you to be and what He wants you to do.

If you’re hurrying and rushing around, fretting and impatient, you’ll never be able to focus your



full attention on the Lord and get His solutions to your problems and His answers to your questions, and thereby make the best decision in each situation. You must stop, look, listen, and wait in communion with Him until you get His answers. When you have learned to do that, you will have learned how to make Spirit-led decisions.

He gives the very best to them who leave the choices up to Him! •

## Proceed as if possessing

By Virginia Brandt Berg

After you have asked God for something, take action. *Act* on your faith. Put God on the spot by showing Him that you believe so strongly that He is going to answer that you are going ahead as if He had *already* answered.

When I was the pastor of a church in Wagoner, Oklahoma, there was a girl named Etta, who wanted very much to go to college to prepare for Christian service. For two years she prayed for money to pay her tuition, and during the second year she got deeply in debt. The situation looked impossible.

She came to me in tears and much discouraged. I asked her if she knew that it was God's will for her to go, and she answered that she was absolutely sure it was.

"Then I would certainly not wait any longer," I said. "You've been asking the Lord for the money for two years, but you have never shown by your actions that you really expect Him to send it. If you really believed He was going to answer your prayer and give you the funds you need, what would you do?"

"I'd get my clothes ready, write the school that I was coming, and make all the other arrangements," Etta answered.

"Then that is exactly what I would do if I were you. Stand on His promise and make the necessary arrangements, just as you would if you had the money in your hand. Real faith would proceed as if it

PUT  
GOD  
ON  
THE  
SPOT



*You are coming to a King,  
Large petitions with you bring;  
For His grace and power are such,  
None can ever ask too much!*

—John Newton (1725–1807)



had already happened. If someone were to promise you the money, you would believe them, but God Himself has already promised in His Word, in Psalm 37:4, to give you the desire of your heart, yet you don't believe Him."

"But Mrs. Berg," the dear girl answered, "I *do* believe Him! I'll prove it! I'm going home to pack my clothes and get ready. School opens in a very short time, and I'll have to hurry."

Etta never wavered from that moment on. She went straight ahead with her preparations, just as if she already had the funds. She was positive that the Bank of Heaven would open its windows at just the right time.

The day before she was supposed to leave, she phoned me to say that her clothing and other belongings were all ready to pack, but she had no suitcase. Over the phone we claimed the Scripture promise, "God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory" (Philippians 4:19). Then I went about my work and forgot the incident.

About an hour later a friend phoned. She was cleaning house, she said, and found a number of things she didn't need any longer and wanted to get rid of, including a large suitcase. She wondered if I could use it.

"You're filling an order from Heaven," I said with a laugh, "only you have the wrong address. The Lord wants the suitcase sent to Etta's home."

The next night a number of us went to the train station to see Etta off to college. "Mrs. Berg," she whispered, "the money hasn't come yet, but I am not the least bit frightened. I absolutely know the Lord has heard my prayer and I know that I have what I asked Him for" (1 John 5:14–15).

I thought there must have been a mistake somewhere. Some friends had told me they had taken a collection amongst themselves to help Etta, but...

Just then I heard the train whistle in the distance and saw the glow of the headlight. Etta searched my face for a clue. What could I say?

Suddenly one of the people who had taken the collection came running up to us. "I was doing some work at the office, when I remembered the money the others had given me to give to Etta," he said. "And here is some more—a gift from my wife and me."

"And here is more," said another friend who had also just come to see Etta off.

"All aboard!" called the conductor. "All aboard!"

"All aboard God's promises!" I said to Etta. "It pays to believe, doesn't it?"

"It's wonderful," she answered, "simply wonderful, what faith can do!" •

## Prayer for the day

When I am with You, Jesus, I know that everything's going to be okay; You're going to work everything out. I know You're going to take care of all the other things I thought I should be doing instead, because when I put them all aside to be with You, that's when You tell me, "Now I can do them for you." Thank You for carrying the load and handling all the problems I would be struggling with right now on my own if I weren't here, bringing them to You. •

**Cameras everywhere, national ID cards, global positioning satellites (GPS), microchips implanted under the skin. The latest sci-fi?**—No, just topics that now routinely appear in the news. In fact, many of them are no longer news. One particular development, however, warrants keeping an eye on.

The VeriChip, unveiled by Florida-based Applied Digital Solutions (ADS) in December 2001, is being hailed as the first workable microchip implant for humans.

The chip is designed to carry a unique ID number and other personal data (up to 128 characters, or about 40 words), and acts like a personal bar code. About the size of the tip of a ballpoint pen, it is syringe-injectable. Once injected, an external scanner can activate the chip. By means of radio signals, the chip can then transmit the ID number and other stored information to a telephone, the Internet, or a data-storage site. The chip is similar to those implanted in about a million dogs and cats to enable owners to identify and reclaim lost pets. Already being test-marketed in some parts of the world, VeriChip comes with a handheld scanner and an injection kit.

VeriChip is stirring the public's imagination. Reactions range from teenagers who think the device is cool and can't wait to get chipped, to civil liberties advocates who worry that the device will someday come under the control of Big Brother.

ADS calls the chip a potential lifesaver for Alzheimer's patients who may get lost, and a godsend for emergency room medical personnel because it would provide instant



By Joseph Candel

## More on Human Chip Implants

foolproof identification and basic medical information for patients who are unconscious or in shock.

Peace of mind through enhanced personal security and safety is ADS's main selling point. In South America, for example, the chip is being promoted as a way to identify and track kidnap victims. For that market, the chip is being bundled with ADS's personal GPS device, Digital Angel. Other possible law enforcement uses include tracking parolees, people under house arrest, and individuals in witness protection programs.

Proponents tout Digital Angel as "an interface between the human and electronic networks." The microchip would last the bearer's lifetime, and recent ADS statements say the VeriChip is superior to biometric technologies because it is implanted and therefore virtually tamper-proof.

**Let him who has  
understanding  
calculate the  
number of the  
Beast, for it  
is the number  
of a man: His  
number is 666  
(Revelation 13:18).**

Critics of the chip express concerns over the specter of people being injected with the chip against their will, perhaps surreptitiously in conjunction with routine vaccinations. In addition, they are concerned about the possibility of such chips eventually being mandated by the government as a form of ID.

ADS CEO Richard Sullivan said he can see the chips being used in children, the elderly, prisoners, and by employers at facilities such as airports and nuclear plants. “Society in general could also use them instead of ATM or credit cards,” he added. Others in favor of human chip implants say they have nothing to hide, so wouldn’t mind having the chip for ID purposes. They already have an ID card, they argue, so why not a chip?

All of this is sounding more and more like the following prophecy from the Bible’s book of Revelation: “He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads [the King James Version of the Bible renders this “*in* the right hand, or *in* the forehead”—not on], and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the Beast [the Antichrist], or the number of his name. Here is wisdom. Let him who has understanding calculate the number of the Beast, for it is the number of a man: His number is 666” (Revelation 13:16–18).

Regardless of who may be behind all the media attention being given the VeriChip—be it sinister spiritual forces preparing the way for the Antichrist or capitalists eager to create a new billion-dollar industry or both—the goal is the same: to get people used to the idea, so they

will buy it. This is standard advertising strategy. The more people see or hear a product being promoted, the more appealing it becomes. Eventually they are convinced they need it.

This side effect is just as predictable: As more and more people accept human microchip implants, objections from those who can see what it’s all leading to will be first discredited and then denounced as the irrational hysterics of society’s paranoid fringe elements.

While the VeriChip may not be the Antichrist’s “mark of the Beast,” it is a giant step in that direction.

Proponents say human chipping can make identification more secure, guarantee proper healthcare, reduce crime, expedite financial exchanges, and simplify everyday life. And these claims are probably true.

But there is more to it than that—or *will* be. The coming mark of the Beast will have spiritual ramifications as well as practical ones. “If anyone worships the Beast [Antichrist] and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead, or on his hand, he himself shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God” (Revelation 14:9–10). Receiving the mark of the Beast will not be merely an economic decision, but will also signify acceptance and worship of the Satan-possessed Antichrist and allegiance to his anti-God global regime. This is what the future of chipping holds, and what most of its advocates don’t realize or choose to ignore.

Will you refuse to accept the coming mark of the Beast because you belong to Jesus? The time to get ready for these events is now, and the way to get ready is by receiving Jesus as your Savior. •



# parenting from the heart

## Coping with the Unexpected

By Jasmine St. Clair

**My husband and I pray daily for our girls' safety, and I'm sure those prayers are what have kept them from having more accidents.** It's possible, though, that I have also considered my kids exceptions—not to the rules, goodness no!—but exceptions in that they never seemed to do the typical silly little-kid things that lead to accidents or trouble. Like putting things in their mouths.

I suppose I should have seen the warning signal—Lauren, two-and-a-half, snatching up a penny from the floor and gleefully popping it into her mouth. Fortunately she was within arm's reach. I got it out, and Lauren got the appropriate scolding, complete with an explanation of “dire consequences.”

Still, nothing could have prepared me for what happened that night.

My husband and I were getting ready to go out for the evening. The girl's room was darkened, and the kids were squirming in their beds, like they always did. Would they be asleep by the time the babysitter arrived? Probably not.

Sudden Kimberly called out, “Mommy! Mommy! Lauren is choking!”

I grabbed Lauren and asked Kimberly what had happened.

“Lauren swallowed a coin!” she replied.

My mind shut down. I had read and reread—probably five or six times—an article on how to help a choking child, but when I needed it, I couldn't remember a word. I carried Lauren to the lighted hallway and screamed for help.

The worst was not to happen, thank God! Lauren started coughing and I remembered that if choking children can cough, they usually cough up whatever they're choking on.

Two or three seconds later a quarter popped out and rolled onto the floor. I couldn't stop crying—or thanking the Lord for His mercy!

Long after the kids were back in bed, still sobbing and hugging each other in a tender display of preschool sisterly love, “what ifs” raced through my mind.

A choking child can't cry out. The darkened room, me in a hurry to get myself ready for our evening out, my husband already waiting downstairs—what if Kimberly hadn't noticed that Lauren was choking? I might not have heard what was happening until it was too late. What if, instead of the quarter, Lauren had swallowed the penny I found in her bed when I tucked her in the second time? The smaller coin could easily have gotten lodged in her windpipe. Could I have gotten it out before it was too late? What if we'd already gone and the babysitter hadn't heard Kimberly calling for help?

I am now a wiser and warier parent. I learned to not assume that my children would never do foolish, childish things that could put them in danger. I also have a renewed appreciation of the love and mercy of God, for His tender loving care, and especially for the way He answers our daily prayers for our children's safety. When faced with the unexpected and the matter is all but out of our control, having Jesus and prayer makes all the difference! •

My mind shut  
down. I carried  
Lauren to the  
lighted hallway and  
screamed for help.

# e-mailing jesus

**When a close friend moved away,** I felt alone and worried about not having anyone to talk to, seek advice from, and confide in. I very much missed having that special link with someone, but I soon discovered that I could have the same kind of personal connection with Jesus that I had enjoyed with my dear friend.

I decided to get up earlier each morning than I had been in order to take an hour to read God's Word and hear from Jesus in prophecy before I did anything else. These have become my daily "talk times" with Jesus, and they really do the trick!

Since I can type faster than I can write, I do this on my computer. I start by typing a prayer in which I share my heart with Jesus—just as though I were writing Him a letter or e-mail. I tell Him what's been happening with me, what I expect to face that day, and anything that may be bothering me. He already knows these things, of course, but it really helps to commit it all to Him in prayer. When I type "Amen," it's like clicking on the "send" button on my e-mail program. My prayer, like an e-mail message, has been sent off to the courts of Heaven for Jesus to read.

That's great, but even better is that I don't have to wait for hours, days, or weeks for a reply. As soon as I send my e-mail, the reply comes. I just type out the message as I hear Jesus speak to my heart, and it nearly always contains all the answers, comfort, instruction, peace, and inspiration I need to see me through the day. If not, I shoot off another e-mail to Jesus asking Him to fill in the gaps, and He does.

This special time with Jesus in the morning has been such a help that I've gotten in the habit of e-mailing Him a couple of times a day, especially when things come up unexpectedly and I need His opinion or advice. Usually it just takes a few minutes, and the clear, simple advice and solutions He gives always make it time well spent.

I now enjoy the companionship and confidence of new friends and co-workers, but I am hooked on my e-mail times with Jesus. They have become my way of telling Him how much I love and need and depend on Him, as well as a great opportunity to thank Him for all He does for me. In return, He sends me all I need to meet and make it through the day a winner. I like that part too! •

By Keti Rosalieva

# ANSWERS to your questions

**Q: I've been told that prayer is a sure thing—that when I pray God will answer. Why, then, do some of my prayers go unanswered?**

**A: Each of us has experienced disappointment** when things didn't work out the way we wanted them to, and if we had *prayed* for that outcome that didn't happen, we were doubly disappointed—first because we didn't get what we wanted, and second because it seemed God had failed us.

Even when there are obvious, logical reasons why something didn't go our way, we wonder why God didn't make it happen anyway. After all, if He's God, He can do anything, and if He loves us as much as the Bible says He does, why didn't He? At times like that, it's easy to hold it against God for not answering prayer.

Of course, it's not right to question God in that accusing sort of way, as though we know better than He does. It is good to ask Him where things went wrong, however, because that will help get better results next time.

The first thing to bear in mind is that God never fails to do what's best for everyone involved, and He never goes back on His promises He has given in the Bible. We, on the other hand, can and do fail sometimes. Also, because He's given us free will, God is often limited in how He can answer our prayers by the choices we or others make.

When prayers seem to go unanswered, some good questions to ask yourself are:

- Was my request motivated by unselfish love and concern for everyone involved?

- Did I believe and claim promises from God's Word?
- Did I put feet to my faith by doing all I could to bring about the desired result?
- Was God unable to do what I asked because of the choices of others?
- Was it perhaps not yet God's *time* to answer or His *plan* for me?
- Is it possible that God's "other" answer will prove better in the long run?

## God's delays are not denials.

God always answers our prayers, but not always right away or in just the way we expect Him to. Sometimes He says yes, sometimes He says no, and sometimes He says wait. There are a number of factors that affect the process, including you and your situation, God and His will, and the situations of others involved. You don't control the outcome completely, others don't control it completely, and God has specifically limited Himself not to control it completely, which is, of course, one reason why prayers don't always get answered right away. But when the conditions are ready for the result God knows is best, He *will* answer. So never doubt for a moment that God is going to answer. Trust Him and thank Him for the answer—even if you don't see it immediately!

—David Brandt Berg



# PRAYER

If you're not already benefiting from the sort of two-way communication with God that you have read about on the preceding pages, it may be because you haven't taken that all-important first step—receiving Jesus into your heart. He's the link between God and us. You can make that connection right now by inviting Jesus to come into your heart. He says, "I stand at the door [of your heart] and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in" (Revelation 3:20). Simply pray the following prayer:

Dear Jesus, thank You for dying for me so I can have eternal life. Please forgive me for every wrong and unloving thing I have ever done, come into my heart, give me Your gift of eternal life, and help me to know You and Your Father's love. Thank You for hearing and answering this prayer and for being with me always, from this moment on. Amen. •

## COMING NEXT ...

Victory isn't simply walking across the goal line; it's struggling through opposition to reach the goal. That principle is just as true of the Christian's spiritual life as it is of sports, with this one important difference: In the spiritual struggle the victory goes to those who depend on the Lord's strength and abilities rather than their own.

To be a *winning* Christian you can't just sit there like a spectator; you need to get in shape and stay in shape spiritually. To be a champion, you need to train like a champion. Put in contemporary terms, the apostle Paul explained it like this: "In a race everyone runs, but only one person gets first prize. So run your race to win. To win the contest you must [lay aside anything] that would keep you from doing your best. An athlete goes to all this trouble just to win a blue ribbon or a silver cup, but we do it for a heavenly reward that never disappears. So I run straight to the goal with purpose in every step. I fight to win. I'm not just shadow-boxing or playing around" (1 Corinthians 9:24–26 TLB).

To find out how you can meet adversity and come out on top, don't miss the next issue of *Activated*. •

## FEEDING READING

### Prayer Power



**Praise and thank the Lord before presenting your request to Him.**

Psalm 95:2  
Psalm 100:4  
Philippians 4:6

Hebrews 11:6  
James 1:5–7

**Obey God and do His will.**

John 9:31  
John 15:7  
1 John 3:22

**Be specific and ask for what you need.**

Matthew 7:7–8  
Matthew 21:22  
John 16:24  
James 4:2b

**Submit yourself to God and pray according to His will.**

Psalm 143:10  
Matthew 6:10  
Luke 22:42  
John 5:30  
1 John 5:14

**Pray in Jesus' name:**

John 14:13–14  
John 16:23

**Pray humbly.**

Daniel 9:18b  
Luke 18:10–14  
James 4:6

**Prayer also includes you listening to God.**

Numbers 9:8  
1 Samuel 3:9–10  
1 Kings 19:11–12

**Remind God of His promises when praying.**

Genesis 32:6–12  
Nehemiah 1:4–11

**Pray in faith.**

Matthew 21:21–22  
Mark 11:24  
Romans 4:21

# THINK ABOUT THIS ...

FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

How would you feel if you never received a love letter or any other communication from the person you loved most—not even a quick note? Wouldn't you feel hurt? Or if you are married, how would you feel if your spouse went days on end without saying a word to you?

Well, *you* are the one I love, and when I don't receive any word from you, it breaks My heart. It makes Me wonder if you care for Me as deeply as I care for you. Please don't forget Me—and please don't forget to communicate with Me. I know it can seem like a sacrifice to pray sometimes, with everything else you have to do and think about, but it's a sacrifice I'm well pleased with.

Prayer is your link with the divine. It's tapping into the Source. It's a direct link to Me and My love. Prayer melts us together and makes us one, so you can have My mind on whatever's on your mind. It brings down My peace. It lifts your spirits and puts things in perspective. Prayer also moves My hand and spurs Me to action. It heals, it revives, it restores, it builds. It can change the course of your day, and can even change the course of history. Prayer can be your saving grace, so don't pass it up. Think about it.

