

# @ctivated

CHANGE YOUR LIFE. CHANGE YOUR WORLD.

## **GOD'S CHESSPIECE**

He is playing to win, but needs you

## **FORGETTING THE PAST**

How to move on to better things

## **PASS IT ON**

We all have something to give



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VOL 4, ISSUE 1

January 2003

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Printed in Thailand

[www.auroraproduction.com](http://www.auroraproduction.com)

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## personally speaking



To one degree or another, just about all of us are unsatisfied with ourselves and our circumstances—and that's not necessarily a bad thing. A certain amount of dissatisfaction is necessary if we're ever going to make progress. To become all that we can be, we must dream of being more than we are. The problem is, too many of us stop there, in the dream stage. Why do you suppose that is?

More often than not, it's because we don't think we have what it takes to turn our dreams into reality. And we're usually right about that. We can make some changes by sheer willpower or working harder, like reaching a new sales quota or dropping a dress or pants size. But what about the bigger changes, the changes *inside* that we know would make us so much happier and enable us to truly make a difference in our corner of the world? It's that kind of change that is usually most elusive.

We're not good enough, we tell ourselves. We have too many flaws and make too many mistakes. It's just not in us! If that's the way you feel, this issue of *Activated* contains some very good news for you!

Jesus summed it up so simply when He said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible" (Mark 10:27). The secret lies in putting ourselves in God's hands and letting Him do the impossible for us and through us and sometimes in spite of us. We're small and weak and incapable, but there is a very big and strong and capable God just waiting to help us. It's a lot easier than you think to make those "impossible" changes in yourself, with Him in control. Just be His chesspiece.

Keith Phillips  
*Keith Phillips*  
For the *Activated* Family

# WHOSE HOUR?

You may feel incapable of helping to change someone else's life, but remember, you don't do the work of changing them—God does. Just show them how to make contact with Him through prayer, and He does the rest. Then you will see lives changed, because God will answer prayer. *He* will do it.

—Chloe West

I was in Singapore, with an hour to kill before catching a bus to the airport. Around the corner, sitting on the pavement, was a young Westerner who looked quite distressed.

"Is there anything I can do for you?" I asked.

"Yes," came the reply. "You can listen to me. My mind is going crazy! I don't know how to find peace!"

So I sat there and listened. He was an American and had come from Indonesia, where he had met a girl, he explained. Now he was afraid he had gotten AIDS from her. He didn't know where to go next—back to the States, or on to Thailand to try to find a place to meditate.

When he was all talked out, I told him what had happened to me—how I had also been desperately looking for peace, love, truth, and happiness, and how I had found everything I needed in Jesus. He prayed with me to receive Jesus, and then we prayed together for his complete healing of body and mind.

Was I ever glad I hadn't wasted that hour that the Lord wanted me to use to reach this young man with His love!

—Emmanuel Peterson




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## What one person can do

If you stop to think about it, there's no limit to how useful your life can be. You can show love to the unlovely, give sympathy, be friendly and congenial, and lend a listening ear or a helping hand to someone in need. You can ask the Lord to help you to always be cheerful, to see the positive side of every situation, and to help others do the same.

You can give out tracts. You can talk about the Lord and His Word. You can reach out to others in need, and show love and understanding wherever you go. Anyone who wants to can really make a difference in the world, and can motivate others to do the same.

—Maria Fontaine



By Virginia Brandt Berg

# FORGETTING THE PAST

**As we stand** before the portals of the New Year, we don't know what it's going to bring. Although we sometimes wish we could, God has made it so we can't pull aside the curtains of the future and see what is in store, and I'm happy to leave it at that because I know He knows best.

There's one thing we do know, though, and this is that we can leave behind the past with all of its cares and frets and its pains and heartaches and mistakes and blunders. Isn't that wonderful!

All that the past year holds of wrong or right, regret or sorrow is in God's hand. If we truly trust Him, He can bring sweet waters out of the bitter desert of the past, no matter what it was.

In this new year, He can give you beauty for ashes and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, the joy of the morning for the woe of the night (Isaiah 61:3; Psalm 30:5). He promises, "All things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose" (Romans 8:28). So if you're His child and truly yielded to His plan for you—if you are one of those who love God and are the called according to His purpose—He can make it *all* work out for good!

How many people claim they are trusting God, but still worry about the blots and stains on the pages of their past! They never rejoice in the fullness of God's forgiveness and mercy, in His promise that He has blotted out their sins. "I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins" (Isaiah 43:25).

It isn't God's way to go back and retrace the past: You can't relive that past, and who would want to when the future is so bright with wonderful promises? When I think about this new year ahead, I think about all the promises of God that we can claim and how bright the picture can be. What wonderful things can happen—miracles of faith because His unchanging Word is there for us.

Jesus stands with outstretched arms blocking the way to the past. And because of the penalty He paid for your sins, the Bible says we should forget the things which are behind and reach forward to those things which are before, as we "press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:13–14 KJV).

There is no redemptive price for that past, but there is redemption for you! Jesus redeemed you and you're clean from all the past.

# god never stops loving you!

**What is God like?** Some people picture Him as an angry God, some kind of monster with an all-seeing eye, carrying around a big stick, ready to clobber them—a cruel tyrant who is trying to frighten them into Hell. But actually, God is *love* (1 John 4:8). He is a loving God who is trying to love everyone into Heaven. He's so close, so intimate, so personal, so loving, so kind, so tender, so gentle, so concerned—and He's waiting with open arms. The only reason He follows us around is that He's hoping we'll turn around and meet Him with open arms.

God never rejects us or withdraws His love. He always has hope for us no matter how far we've strayed. So if you feel far from God, maybe it's because you haven't opened your heart to receive His love and forgiveness. You need not continue to feel condemned for your mistakes and sins; only be sorry, ask for God's forgiveness, and be forgiven (Isaiah 1:18; 1 John 1:9).

If you will even start going God's way—if you'll just turn toward Him and start trying to find your way Home—the Father will come running toward you and receive you with open arms of love (Luke 15:18–24).

—David Brandt Berg (DBB)

If you haven't yet experienced God's love and forgiveness, you can right now by sincerely praying a simple prayer like the following:

*Thank You, Jesus, for paying the price for my mistakes and wrongs, so I can be forgiven and put my past behind me. Thank You that You cleanse me from all sin—past sin, sin now, and sin hereafter—by faith. I ask You now, dear Jesus, to come into my heart, forgive me, and give me Your gift of eternal life. Amen.* ■

What a pity if we carry the burden of the past when the Lord paid such a price to lift that burden and set us free!

I wonder if there is anything more wonderful than the miracle of forgiveness—the assurance of having your sins forgiven. It's for all of us! He died for all of us! All you

have to do is reach out and take it—receive Him as your Savior and accept His forgiveness.

“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). He has promised this and He cannot break His Word. ■

# pass it on

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*God does not comfort us*

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*to make us comfortable,*

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**By Lilia Potters**

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*but to make us comforters.*

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**I sat back in my seat** and waited for takeoff. My back ached and my limbs were stiff from the five-hour drive to the airport and the two-hour first leg of my flight home. I wasn't looking forward to another five hours in cramped economy-class seating.

My mind drifted to my daughter, not yet 18 years old, who I had just taken to live with her older brother for a while. I was going to miss her! It was her first time away from home, and my heart ached at the thought of not having her near me. I knew this feeling well. She was the fifth of our six children to leave home. I should be getting used to it, I thought. But the same empty feeling started to overtake me. Tears burned in my eyes, but I determined not to give in to my emotions.

As the plane taxied down the runway, I closed my eyes and lifted my heart to Jesus, asking Him to grant me a safe flight and to keep my dear daughter and the rest of my

children safe in His care. I thanked Him that He always had. His still small voice whispered to my heart that all would be well with my daughter, just as it had been with her four older brothers who had left home before her.

The plane took off, climbed, and then leveled off.

Peace came over me as I drank in His assurances and remembered how He had never failed to answer my prayers for our children. Tears of longing turned to tears of gratitude as I thanked Him for His faithfulness and comfort.

When I opened my eyes, I saw that a woman and a little girl about three years old had moved into the seats next to mine, which had been empty at takeoff. Although I had hoped for empty seats beside me so I could stretch out, I understood how the stewardess probably felt they needed the space.

I watched the mother struggle with her daughter, who was tired

and whiny and wanted to sleep. I offered the woman my pillow and an extra blanket to cushion the child's head. With a grateful look, she explained they'd already flown for eight hours. Soon the little girl fell asleep, half in her own seat and half in her mother's lap.

A meal was served, we made a little small talk, the stewardess collected the trays, and the woman tried to get some rest. A few minutes later, I noticed a tear run down her cheek, then another. She tried to brush them away before I could see, but quickly realized I already had and gave me a sheepish smile.

"Are you all right?" I asked.

"Yes, yes," she said. But the tears kept coming.

I gently touched her arm. "Is there anything I can do for you?"

After a valiant effort to compose herself, she explained that she'd just taken her 16-year-old son to the United States, to study. She had

seven other children, but he was the oldest and the first one to leave home. She missed him already.

I looked at her in amazement. Here I was, sitting next to a woman who was experiencing the exact same emotions I had only minutes earlier, thinking about my own dear daughter.

I took her hand in mine and I told her that I understood. I explained about my daughter and shared the comforting thoughts God had whispered to my heart just a short while before. She listened intently and smiled through her tears when I told her we could pray for our children and then trust God to care for them.

I soon learned that we were of different faiths, but we both acknowledged that the God we loved also loved our children and would look out for them. We talked more during the rest of the flight, exchanged phone numbers, and promised to get in touch in the future.

After parting, I thanked Jesus for a safe flight and for the way He so perfectly engineers things. I believe He worked out those seating arrangements on the plane so I could pass on His words and His reassurances to someone else. He wanted to comfort us both.

—  
*The Father of compassion and the God of all comfort ... comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God (2 Corinthians 1:3,4 NIV). ■*

You can always  
drop a little love into the hearts  
of those you pass by, even if only with  
a word, a smile, or a look of sympathy, and  
they will know that God has loved them that  
day! His Spirit will tell them so. A little bit of  
love goes such a long way!

—DBB

**Lilia Potters is a volunteer  
with The Family in the Mideast.**

# god's CHESSPIECE

—You Can't, but He Can!



**God doesn't want** you to try or pretend to be something you're not and couldn't possibly be. However, He teaches in His Word that almost anybody can be almost anything if they have faith and it's according to His will. Anybody can be somebody or somebody can be anybody, because with God nothing is impossible and all things are possible to those who believe (Luke 1:37; Mark 9:23).

A lot of Christians make idols of the great men and women of God of the past. They idolize the heroes of the Bible, the patriarchs and the prophets, the Christian saints and martyrs, and they exalt them to such heights that they make it almost impossible for others to believe they could ever do the same things. And sad to say, it seems that all too often people do that to excuse themselves.

They say, "It's impossible to be like that today. That sort of thing is reserved for Bible times, or saints or patriarchs or prophets. Ordinary Christians aren't supposed to try to be like that. It's impossible. Don't even try! People today can't expect to do miracles or have other gifts of the Spirit like the apostles and great Christians of the past had. The day of miracles is past!"





And one of the biggest lies the Devil tells people is, “You can’t be that way because you’re sinful and make mistakes, and you cannot be both good and bad.” Well, God’s Word says, “There is none righteous, no, not one. . . . For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:10,23). And that includes whom?—Not only you and me, but the saints and the prophets and the apostles and the patriarchs, and everyone else except the Lord Himself.

Now that changes the picture! That brings the apostles, prophets, and heroes of the Bible down to our level, and that means it’s possible for us to become more like them. Regardless of our sins and mistakes and faults or whatever, we too can be used of the Lord. So if the Devil tells you that you’ll never amount to anything for the Lord because you’re so bad, don’t listen to him. That isn’t so!

God created man and put him on earth in part to demonstrate His power in giving him salvation—to show that in spite of all our faults and shortcomings He can save us and make us useful. He can even use you. The fact that God can use *you*, bad as you are, gives the glory to Jesus when you do anything good or right. As the old hymn says,

I’ll give all the glory to Jesus,  
And tell of His love, His wonderful love.  
I’ll give all the glory to Jesus,  
And tell of His wonderful love!

Even the great apostle Paul lamented, “Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?” He as good as said, “I stink! I’m a horrible mess!” But then the Lord encouraged him with the answer to his dilemma: “Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 7:24–25; 1 Corinthians 15:57).

Now, doesn’t that give you some hope? When the Devil reminds you of your mistakes and faults and shortcomings, it helps to remind yourself that, yes, you’re no good; yes, you’re a sinner; yes, except for the love and mercy and grace and goodness of God, you’d never make it!

It takes a miracle of the grace of God! It all has to be a miracle! Your thoughts, your love for the Lord and others, your work for the Lord—all of it is a miracle of God’s grace, “faith working through love” (Galatians 5:6). It’s *God’s* work. You just have to have the faith that God is going to do it through you.

For many years I was convinced that I was nothing and nobody and could never do anything! I was

too sinful, too carnal, I didn't read the Bible enough and didn't pray enough. How could I ever hope to do anything for God?

Be honest. Isn't that the way you feel sometimes? I'm sure the Devil lies to you like that too. When he does, slap him in the face with Scriptures, like Jesus did when the Devil tempted Him in the wilderness (Matthew 4:1-11). "It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me" (Galatians 2:20). Where sin and human faults and failings abound, God's grace does more abound (Romans 5:20). That's what it's all about!

Why do you think the Lord lets you make mistakes? Why do you think God let Adam and Eve fall prey to temptation in the Garden of Eden?—To prove that they needed God, and to prove that *you* need God! You can't do it on your own! And what does that do?—It glorifies the Lord!

Of course you can't do it! Of course you can't save yourself! Of course you can't live a perfect Christian life! Of course you can't be good or do anything good of yourself! Jesus Himself said, "Without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). A lot of people have been taught the false doctrine that they're supposed to do most of it with just a little help from God, but I want to tell you right now, God does it all! Isn't that a comforting thought?

You don't have to have faith to do things that the Lord isn't asking or expecting of you. You just have to

have faith to be what He's made you to be and to do the job He has for you, whatever that may be. Don't try to be somebody you're not, but don't let the Devil lie to you that you can't be who God can make you, or do what God wants to do through you. God won't ask you to do anything more than He knows you can do, with His help.

Too many Christians have been taught two conflicting doctrines: first, that they can't be saintly and perfect, and second that they can't be saved unless they are. Both are the Devil's own doctrines! It's no wonder that a lot of Christians give up trying to be or do anything for the Lord!

But the wonderful truth of the matter is that you can do anything with Jesus' help. "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:13). With His help you can do anything, go anywhere, and be anybody God wants you to be.

God has given us a free will, but to be successful for the Lord or even as happy as He would like to make us, we have to continually yield that will to Him. We have to find out from Him what His will for us is—what He knows is best for others and us—and then choose that.

Everybody has their place and job for the Lord, like the pieces on a chessboard. Chesspieces have no will of their own. When a player picks up a chesspiece and moves it to another square, the chesspiece doesn't protest; it yields and goes where it's sent, right? Well, you're in God's hands! Think of that whenever the Devil tempts you to worry about this or that. You're in the hands of

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It's wonderful  
to let God  
decide,  
because He  
always has our  
best interests  
at heart and  
He knows  
what's best.

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the Master Player and He's going to put you wherever He wants you, so just trust the Lord.

*You* don't have to make all the decisions; you only have to be yielded. But you're a free moral agent and you can choose *not* to be yielded. When it comes right down to it, the only decision you have to make is to choose to do God's will, whatever it might be. Simply yield to His moves and let Him do the thinking and the choosing. He can see the whole game, the whole chessboard, and all the pieces. You've got very limited vision and very limited power, but He sees and has it *all*.

Simply be what God wants you to be. Don't worry about what you can be or can't be or will be or won't be, like I did for nearly 50 years! I spent over half my life worrying about what I would be, when all the time I was being exactly what God wanted me to be and learning all the things God wanted me to learn.

There have also been times when *I've* chosen to do this and do that, and God's had to change my mind or do something else in spite of me—and I always found out in the end that He knew best.

It's wonderful to let God decide, because He always has our best interests at heart and He knows what's best. He never fails. Even if He should let us get His instructions wrong or do something wrong, He's able to use even that to teach us some lesson and bring about some good if our hearts are right with Him (Romans 8:28).

So quit worrying about what God's going to do. You're in God's hands. "Rest in the Lord, and do

good" (Psalm 37:3 KJV). "Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Proverbs 3:5–6). "Your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, 'This is the way, walk in it,' whenever you turn to the right hand or whenever you turn to the left" (Isaiah 30:21).

When a guide leads you down a path that's new to you, he doesn't tell you what you're going to need to do before you get to the turn or the fork in the way. He waits till you get to the point where you need to know before he tells you what to do or where to go next—and that's the way it is with the Lord. In most cases, you don't need to know all the details of what you're going to do tomorrow. Jesus said not to *worry* about tomorrow. You often have to plan ahead, but you're not to worry about tomorrow. Just do what God knows you can do and what God asks you to do today, and be prepared to do the same tomorrow.

God made you a particular kind of chesspiece, and He's given you powers accordingly. God is the player; you're just the chesspiece. You're His piece, and all you have to do is what God tells you to do. He doesn't even expect you to do it yourself. He'll reach down and take ahold of you and move you where He wants you to go. *You* can't do it, anyway—but you can with His help! You can't, but He can! ■

(Excerpted from *More Than Conquerors*, a collection of 10 articles by David Brandt Berg, available from any of the addresses on page 2 of this magazine.)



# the heavenly city and new the earth

Compiled from

the writings of David Brandt Berg

by Joseph Candel

**As the world scene** continues to grow darker, it's more important than ever to keep our minds on the happy ending. Yes, things *are* going to get worse before they get better, but what matters most is that they are going to get better—much better! The darkest night this world has ever known will be followed by the most glorious sunrise. Then at last God's kingdom will reign supreme, eternally.

During the three-and-a-half-year period known as the Great Tribulation, the soon-coming world dictator, the Antichrist, will persecute believers of all faiths. But at the end of the Great Tribulation, Jesus will return “on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory” and rescue His people and gather them to be with Him (Matthew 24:29–31).

All of God's saved children who have died through the ages will be miraculously resurrected and ascend to meet Jesus in the air. Then the saved that are still alive on earth will

also be instantly transformed and join them. Jesus will rescue His people from their anti-Christ persecutors and whisk them away to the grandest victory celebration that has ever been held, the marriage supper of the Lamb in Heaven (Revelation 14:14–16; 19:6–9).

Meanwhile, the horrific wrath of God will be poured out upon the Antichrist and his followers (Revelation 14:8–11, 17–20; 15:1, 7–8; 16:1–11).

The superhuman hosts of Heaven, led by Jesus, will then return to completely defeat and destroy the Antichrist and his forces in the cataclysmic battle known as Armageddon. This will mark the end of man's cruel rule, as Jesus Christ and His forces take over the world and rule in righteousness.

For the next one thousand years—a period known as the Millennium—there will be peace, plenty, and paradise on earth (Revelation 19:11–21; 20:1–6).

Then, at the end of the Millennium, Satan will be released from prison in the heart of the earth, where he has been held for those thousand years. He will be given his freedom just long enough to deceive the nations again, and the unconverted will join Satan and rebel against God's kingdom on earth. God will once again defeat the Devil and his followers—this time at a battle even more cataclysmic than Armageddon, the Battle of Gog and Magog—and will completely purge and purify the surface of the earth with a flood of fire (2 Peter 3:10; Revelation 20:7–9; 21:1).

After the Battle of Gog and Magog, God will rebuild a new world on the ashes of the old—"a new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells" (2 Peter 3:13). It will be the same planet, but with a beautifully renewed surface. God is going to re-create the entire surface of the earth like a beautiful new Garden of Eden.

Then His great heavenly city will come down out of space to land on that beautiful new earth, and God is going to come down and live with us, and we with Him (Revelation 21:2–3).

It will be such a literal down-to-earth Heaven that Revelation chapters 21 and 22 describe it in detail—right down to the city's exact measurements, colors, materials, and more! It will be the grandest city ever built—far beyond the wildest dreams of man—covering an area of about 2.25 million square miles (about 5.83 million square kilometers), or large enough to cover most of Australia, over half of Europe or the United States, or one-fourth of Africa (Revelation 21:16).

"The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb [Jesus] is its light" (Revelation 21:23). The sun and moon will continue to shine for the benefit of those outside the city, but those inside won't need them because the city will have its own light—the light of God, His Son, Jesus.

The entire city will be made of "pure gold, like clear glass" (Revelation 21:18). Imagine!

There will be a beautiful river of the water of life, flowing out of the throne of God and through the center of the city. Both sides of the river will be lined with trees of life that bear twelve kinds of fruit continuously, and the "leaves are for the healing of the nations" (Revelation 22:2). The resurrected saints in their supernatural bodies aren't going to need healing, so it's obvious that this healing is for the people and nations outside the city.

Another major difference in the new earth is that "there will be no more sea" (Revelation 21:1). Today most of the earth is covered by water, so when God remakes the earth's surface and the seas are gone, there will be four or five times as much land for all the people outside the heavenly city to live on and enjoy.

It will be a whole new earth, a whole new creation, with peaceful, friendly animals and birds and all the beautiful creations of God that are with us now. But there will be none of the harmful insects and pests and thorns and thistles we have now (Isaiah 11:6–9; 55:13). The whole creation will be just like God had planned for it to be in the beginning, like it was in the Garden of Eden. What a wonderful world it will be, with no more sin, war, destruction, death, sickness, tears, or pain!

And that's not all! "In My Father's House," Jesus said, "are many mansions. ... I go to prepare a place for you ... that where I am, there you may be also" (John 14:2–3). If you have received Jesus as your Savior, one of these days you're going to own a mansion that isn't going to cost you anything, because Jesus has already paid for it.

Are you ready for Heaven? Are you going to be able to walk the streets of that heavenly city? Only the saved shall walk therein (Revelation 21:24). You don't want to miss out on that, do you? All you have to do is receive Jesus as your Savior, if you haven't already! ■

# ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

You don't  
have to be  
perfect

**Q:** Sometimes I feel that I'm never going to be good enough to please God. For example, the Bible says that we should pray without ceasing and give our lives in service to Jesus and others, but those goals seem impossibly high. What's the use of even trying?

**A:** The Lord gives us goals to help us grow as people, so we'll be happier, and so our lives will be more meaningful and better in every way. He doesn't do it because He wants or expects us to be perfect—in fact, He knows we never will be. It is we who sometimes set unrealistic goals for ourselves and thereby set ourselves up for feelings of failure. The Devil's favorite weapon against Christians is discouragement, and condemnation follows close behind.

When you feel condemned, it's because you think God won't forgive you for something you did wrong. Often the problem is in the "thinking," because the more you dwell on it, the worse it gets. When you give in to condemnation, this effectively cancels out your faith to ask the Lord to help you overcome these negative feelings, because you feel you don't deserve His help or other blessings. When you give in to discouragement and condemnation, you relinquish your power to fight back. Once you're in the pits of condemnation it's very hard to climb out, because the Devil tries to convince you that is right where you belong.

But Jesus knows you perfectly—the good and the bad—and still He offers you His unconditional love. He isn't out there with a clipboard, recording your every slip or fall. Rather, He rejoices each time you make even a small step to follow Him. In His eyes, the only failure is the one who falls and fails to get up to try again. He doesn't even expect you to pick yourself up. He'll reach down and pick you up Himself, and then give you the faith and gumption to keep on going till you get it right. He only asks that you are willing to try, and that you believe He loves you and is there to help. So if you feel condemned, follow these simple steps to victory:

1. Admit that you alone can't attain your goals, and that only Jesus in you can make it.
2. Refuse to believe the Devil when he comes around with condemnation and guilt.
3. Remind yourself that in God's eyes, failure is not in the falling but in not getting up to try again.
4. Thank God that even seeming defeats are victories if you learn from them.
5. When you stumble, refuse to quit. Lean on Jesus. Ask for His perspective. Then get up and try again. ■

## LOVE IS...

Love is believing, trusting, helping, encouraging, confiding, sharing, understanding, feeling, touching, caring, praying, giving. Love is communication. Love is an emotion. Love is passionate, alive, vibrant, and warm. Love is something that gets better all the time!

Love is the greatest need of mankind, so love is the greatest service to mankind. Love is spiritual, but is manifested in the physical. Love is seen as it is put into action. Love is thoughtfulness. Love is always. Love knows no hours or days. Love is always finding a way. Love is giving all. Love is rare—the unselfish kind. Love is priceless. Love is its own reward.

Love is sacrificial. Love is preferring the happiness of others to our own. Love is patient. Love is kind. Love is merciful. Love can overcome any obstacle and heal any wound. Love is quick to forgive. Love is humble.

Love is never lost.—It always has its effect sooner or later. Love is forever.

Love is the name of God. Love is the power of God. Love *is* God, for God is love! God's ultimate love is Jesus (1 John 4:8–9).

To find out how you can put more of this kind of love into your life, don't miss the next issue of *Activated*. ■

It's not possible for you to change yourself, but it's possible for God to change you by the miracle-working power of His Spirit! He will do things you can't do!

—David Brandt Berg

## CHANGING FOR THE BETTER

**God wants only the best for us.**

Psalm 84:11b  
 Jeremiah 29:11  
 Matthew 7:9–11  
 Luke 12:32

**God can and will help us change for the better, if we let Him.**

2 Timothy 1:12b  
 Philippians 1:6  
 Philippians 2:13

**But the natural man resists change.**

Psalm 49:11  
 Mark 7:9  
 Luke 5:39

**Yieldedness to the Lord's will is the key to beneficial change.**

1 Samuel 3:18b  
 Psalm 40:8  
 Isaiah 64:8  
 Jeremiah 42:6a  
 Matthew 6:10b  
 Romans 8:28

**During the changing process, we must do two things: not worry about the past and keep our eyes on the goal ahead.**

Philippians 3:13–14  
 2 Corinthians 4:18  
 Colossians 3:2  
 Hebrews 12:2a

## *Wheels of progress*

There are cycles in life—times in which everything seems to go well, and times when things seem to go badly. I want you to learn to hold on to Me through each phase of the cycle.

When you are faced with a new obstacle or problem, don't let it discourage you and don't worry that you and I together won't be able to overcome it. We will, but you must pass through this low phase of the cycle in the process. Problems cause you to exercise your faith as you rise up to meet them, and that brings the next phase of the cycle: You call on Me for help, and you fight and you win and you make progress. It's like a wheel as it turns: As the top goes down, the bottom comes around to the top and the wheel carries you forward.

Each time you face a new test, you must fight once again. You take up the challenge, call on Me for help, and once again overcome and make more progress. More tests bring more victories. But if at any time you don't seek Me for the solution, if you don't take up the challenge or don't fight through to victory, you stop the cycle. You remain at the low point and there is no forward motion; you go nowhere.

So don't look at the low points in your life as defeats, but as opportunities to make forward progress. I know it's often difficult to go through these cycles, but you must in order to keep moving forward, so keep at it!

