



activated

CHANGE YOUR LIFE. CHANGE YOUR WORLD.

SUCCESS WITH PEOPLE

It's not as hard as you
might think

LOVE IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING

Don't miss life's greatest
lesson

THE WISE AND UNWISE LEADER

Why bosses fail—and what
they can do about it

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Personally speaking

Success and happiness, psychologists and surveys tell us, are what people want most out of life. But what if people had to choose between the two, happiness and success?—Happiness would win, hands down! After all, what good is success if it doesn't make you happy? It's also a proven fact that the things we consider most important, we pursue the most earnestly. Why, then, do so few people say they feel truly happy and fulfilled? Why don't they find what they're after? What's missing? Where do they go wrong?

The answer can usually be summed up in one word: people. When you stop and think about it, other people play an important part in any real happiness we experience. And if you will think about it some more, you will realize that our level of happiness is in part a reflection of how successful we are in our *relationships* with other people. So how do we succeed with people?—Someone has wisely said that success in marriage depends not so much on *finding* the right person as *being* the right person, and that's true of all interpersonal relationships. Learning to get along well with others is one of the keys to happiness.

This issue of *Activated* contains practical tips on how to improve your relations with others, but it all starts with and comes back to one simple principle known as the Golden Rule: Do to others as you would have them do to you (Matthew 7:12). If you want to be happy, make others happy. If you want love, give love. If you want friends, be a friend. If you want real success and fulfillment in life, get busy building up others and helping them succeed; the rewards will far surpass any monetary or material success you could ever dream of—and you can start today!

Keith Phillips

Keith Phillips
For the *Activated* Family

I DO A LOT OF MANAGEMENT TRAINING each year for the Circle K Corporation, a [U.S.] national chain of convenience stores. Among the topics we address in our seminars is the retention of quality employees—a real challenge to managers when you consider the pay scale in the service industry. During these discussions, I ask the participants, “What has caused you to stay long enough to become a manager?” Some time back, a new manager took

*As a single
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paying bills.*

When Cynthia arrived for work the next morning, Patricia, the store manager, asked her to come to the small room in the back of the store that served as an office. Cynthia wondered if she had done something wrong or left some part of her job incomplete from the day before. She was concerned and confused.

Patricia handed her a box. “I overheard you talking to your son yesterday,” she said, “and I know that it is hard to explain

JESSE'S GLOVE

this question and slowly, with her voice almost breaking, said, “It was a \$19 baseball glove.”

Cynthia told the group that she originally took a Circle K clerk job as an interim position while she looked for something better. On the second or third day behind the counter, she received a phone call from her nine-year-old son, Jesse. He needed a baseball glove for Little League. She explained that as a single mother, money was very tight and her first check would have to go for paying bills. Perhaps she could buy his baseball glove with her second or third check.



things to kids. This is a baseball glove for Jesse because he may not understand how important he is, even though you may have to pay the bills before you can buy baseball gloves. You know we can't pay good people like you as much as we'd like to, but we do care—and I want you to know you are important to us.”

The thoughtfulness, empathy, and love of this convenience store manager demonstrates vividly that people remember how much an employer *cares* more than how much an employer *pays*. That's an important lesson, for the price of a baseball glove. •

—RICK PHILLIPS, *HEART AT WORK*

SOME YEARS AGO WHEN I WORKED WITH TWO SECRETARIES, LAURA AND ANNE, we discovered together an important lesson in human relationships. Both Laura and Anne were hard workers—really tops in their field, the best at what they did. When it came to their work, they were diligent and efficient and got the job done. But there was often friction in the office.

Sensitive Anne was hurt because of Laura's rather snappy attitude. Laura thought it was all Anne's fault for being too sensitive. Laura was partially right; Anne *was* sensitive and needed to improve in that area. But when I talked with Laura about the problem, we realized it presented her with a wonderful opportunity for personal growth. Laura was good at her work, she was good on paper, but was she willing to learn to improve her relationships with people? Why had God put her in the position of working with Anne in the first place? Might He be working in Laura's life to help her learn to get along with others better?

We could all stand to improve in our

relations with others, and the Bible has lots of helpful counsel for us on that subject—how to work with others, how to treat them, how to be loving towards them, and so on. It talks about patience, longsuffering, love, unselfishness, and giving. In all the passages about these things, the Lord is talking about relationships between human beings, not about our work or the relationships we have with things—our papers or computers or machines. He's talking about *people*. You may work great with your computer, but you're not going to grow much spiritually unless you learn to have loving interaction with other people—and that's not always easy! It takes patience, love, and humility.

If we're going to grow and mature in spirit, then we've got to grow in love, not just in diligence in our work. The Bible doesn't teach us that diligence is the most important thing; it teaches us that *love* is the most important thing! "The greatest of these is love" (1 Corinthians 13:13).

You may do your work well and accomplish a lot, but if you haven't

To be successful with people you have to learn that people are different and need to be treated differently.

Love
is the most important thing!



BY MARIA FONTAINE

learned how to work with others and treat them with love, then you're missing one of the main lessons we're here on earth to learn! We need to learn to love people, and to do that we need to also learn that people are different and we can't treat them all the same. The Lord wants us to treat people differently, according to their needs. Jesus was very mindful of people's human weaknesses and didn't require the same from everyone. The apostle Paul also instructed, "Uphold the weak, be patient with all" (1 Thessalonians 5:14).

What is the most important ingredient in our relations with each other? What did Jesus say proves we are His disciples?—Love! "By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35). How can you love God whom you can't see, if you can't love the people you live and work with all the time? How can you say you love people whom you haven't seen, if you don't love your brother or sister whom you see every day? (1 John 4:20). It's clear that as Christians, we are really erring if we don't love each other.

Laura was an excellent worker, but even if she were perfect, even if she spent 18 hours a day on the job without making one mistake, she'd still not be pleasing God if she did not show a loving attitude toward the people she worked with.

In our office there was obviously a problem between Laura and Anne, and resolving it was part of their job. It wasn't easy, because one of the hardest things to learn is how to work with other people. That's a lot harder to learn than how to operate a machine that doesn't talk back! It's a lot harder to get along with people and handle them lovingly and get them to love you—but Laura learned and we can too!



"Am I my brother's keeper?" (Genesis 4:9). Well, the answer is obvious. Of course we are our brother's keeper, and we need to remember that some people need to be "kept" even more lovingly and tenderly than others. To be successful with people, you have to learn that people are different and need to be treated differently.

The Lord put certain people in your life—relatives, coworkers, superiors, clients, or neighbors—whether you like it or not. Whether you like to be with these people or not, He has placed you with them and it's your responsibility to love them. If you can't get along with them, He evidently knew you needed to learn to or He wouldn't have put you together. It must be possible, or He wouldn't have put you in that situation.

We don't grow or learn unless we have a challenge, so look at this as a new challenge in life. "What can I do to grow in my relationships with other people?" Part of the answer to that is growing in our relationship with the Lord. If we're growing in the Lord, then we'll be more loving toward other people—and that's what it's all about. That's the whole purpose for living, to love God and others. That's the most important thing! And if you love God, you'll love others, too, because loving others is one way you show love to the Lord.

You can read the Bible all you want, but if it you don't live it in love, it doesn't do any good. You can make all kinds of other sacrifices, but without love it is nothing. You can have all the other gifts of the spirit, but without love it is meaningless (1 Corinthians 13:1–3). You can be the tops in your field, but if you don't manifest God's love to others, then it's all in vain. If you don't have love, you don't have anything! *Love* is the most important thing! •



It happened to me

BY CHARLOTTE HOPPER, BRAZIL



TEACHER becomes student

THIS SHOULD BE EASY, I thought as I prepared to make the switch from teaching elementary-school-aged children to teaching teenagers. *After all, I have been a teacher all my adult life.* Was I in for a surprise!

Younger children are generally quite trusting and respectful of adults, and nearly all of those I had worked with over the years had accepted my word as “law,” no questions asked. The teens, on the other hand, seemed to question *everything*. Respect and obedience—things I had long considered every teacher’s due—were no longer guaranteed. It wasn’t that I was always right and the teens were always wrong; they just wanted to do things differently. They wanted to spread their wings, and never seemed to be content to do things the way I or their parents or others of our generation had.

If I had known then what I know now, I probably could have succeeded at that job. Instead, I tried to hold on to my “tried and proven”

ways of doing things. My relationship with my students became strained, and I became frustrated, critical, and unhappy.

A little later, I was offered and accepted the job of director of a small but potential social welfare project in a slum area of São Paulo. I had never set foot in a slum before and had no idea what to expect or where to start, but God gave me a coworker who did—Paulo, a 20-year-old Brazilian who had grown up with his missionary parents and had already been working with underprivileged youth for a couple of years. We started our little mission together, and my schooling began!

The basic plan was to combine physical help and practical training with spiritual counseling in order to better the lives of about 100 families living on a city dump. It seemed that every conceivable health, hygiene, and public services problem was present in this area of about 20 hectares (roughly 50 acres)—open sewers,



The physical conditions in the slum overwhelmed me mentally and emotionally.

contaminated water, rats and other vermin, unpaved roads, a grossly inadequate jerry-rigged electrical system, you name it.

Fortunately, Paulo had some talents and insight that I lacked. As he helped me interview the families we had come to help, his experience kicked in and my own obvious lack of experience put me in the humble seat.

I had come from an upper-middle-class American family and had never seen such poverty in my life. The physical conditions in the slum overwhelmed me mentally and emotionally. I also didn't know how to relate to the people we had come to help, or understand how their entire way of thinking had been formed by their suffering, poverty, and day-to-day struggle for basic necessities. I said things that weren't appropriate, and even made jokes about things that to them weren't laughing matters. I felt embarrassed whenever Paulo would take me aside and clue me in, but little by little I learned.

Paulo also shared his insights about the needs and attitudes of the various people we interviewed or offered help to, how a certain family wasn't as needy or as committed to do what they could to improve their living conditions as another family, and so on. He could tell who would prove reliable and worthy of our help; I couldn't. They all seemed needy and sincere to me. Paulo also knew when some comment would hurt their feelings, or when some action would offend them. He knew how they felt; I didn't.

The young people there—everyone, in fact—loved Paulo! He got on their level, but only to bring them up. He could talk their language, but then

turn the conversation to more positive and constructive subjects in the blink of an eye. One minute he was exhorting, the next minute playing football with them. It all seemed to come naturally to Paulo. How could I not be grateful for his leadership or the suggestions he offered about how I could do things better?

And guess what?—Paulo and I got along marvelously, and our efforts paid off. We have both moved on to other projects, but the work we began together seven years ago flourishes to this day. Why?—I'm sure it's in part because we learned to work as a team. I was open to Paulo's advice and followed his capable instruction, and when something came up that I was better suited for, he let me take the lead. When something went wrong, we could talk it out. I respected his talents and opinions, so he respected mine. It really worked!

I learned so much from that experience! For one, I saw that if I had approached teaching teenagers the same way I had the slum project with Paulo, with the attitude that I had much to learn, all of us would have been much happier. If I had encouraged, respected, and trusted them more, they probably would have respected and appreciated me more. Instead of being a know-it-all, I should have let them experiment and then helped them pick up the pieces when things went wrong. We could have grown together.

Thank God for second chances! He certainly knew what He was doing when He led me to leave my teaching job so I could learn the way to young people's hearts. •

CHARLOTTE HOPPER IS A FAMILY VOLUNTEER WORKING IN BRAZIL.

BY DAVID BRANDT BERG



The *WISE* and *UNWISE* leader

A GOOD EXECUTIVE IS NOT A BOSS—HE IS A SERVANT! Jesus wasn't just trying to teach His disciples humility when He said, "Whoever desires to become great among you, let him be your servant" (Matthew 20:26). A good executive simply is not a dictator! He listens to his employees. When the top people don't communicate with those under them, then of course they don't understand them or their problems. When that happens, they're headed for trouble!

Leaders at any level should listen to those under them. Leaders *are* responsible to make the final decision, but being a leader does not mean that you have all the ideas and do all the thinking and all the con-

sulting just within yourself. A good executive will listen to others.

A good secretary knows more about her boss' business than he does—and she should! He shouldn't have to be involved with every little thing, but *someone* needs to be. A good boss understands that his secretary is more familiar with the extent of the work and the urgency of it, and he will respect that and usually take his secretary's suggestions.

When it comes to plans and goals and motivation and other overall aspects of the work, the leaders are supposed to be good or they shouldn't be the leaders. But when it comes to practical matters, leaders ought to listen to their helpers,



If you're going to be an effective team, every member must work together with all the other members.

because their helpers probably know more about it than they do. A good leader will listen to his workers' suggestions, discuss, agree with them on a course of action, and then leave them alone to carry out the work, just checking now and then to see that they are producing and don't make any serious mistakes. That's really the job of the executive—to keep things moving. He should let his people recommend the work, initiate the work, and by all means carry out the work.

Nearly every king is surrounded by counselors that tell him what to do. Did you know that even God works that way? He calls in His chief counselors and angels and asks them, "What do you think we should do about this?" He listens to their suggestions and then has the wisdom to know who is right. If you don't believe that, read 1 Kings 22:19–22 and Job 1:6–12. And God not only listens to His heavenly counselors, spirits, and angels, but don't forget, He even listens to us and does what we ask Him to do!

If God Himself won't do all the thinking for us, then who are we to try to make all the decisions, do all the thinking, give all the orders, and carry them all out besides? A leader just can't operate alone!

Only a novice, only a brand-new, not-yet-dry-behind-the-ears junior executive tries to run everything and tell everybody what to do. They've never been in that position before and don't know what to do or how to do it, but they pretend to as they sit on their thrones, giving out dictums. It's a very foolish king or executive or leader who works that way.

A wise king, when he wants to get a certain thing done, calls in his counselors and listens to them, and then decides whose advice is best. And

whom does the king appoint to carry out that job?—One of the others that had a different plan? Of course not! He gives the job to the one whose idea it was.

Any smart executive is going to pump people power! He is not going to try to be the pump, or the pump handle, or the water, or the bucket. He's merely going to be the guiding hand that takes hold of the handle and pumps. All he does is keep the pump in motion.

A good leader will try to keep everybody happy, because everybody has a right to be happy and to do the work he likes to do and wants to do if he's qualified.

If you're going to be an effective team, every member must work together with all the other members—not just one, not just a few, not even the majority, but all. You must learn to work together, listen to each other, counsel together, agree together, decide together, and then work it out together.

As in the human body, you can't say that you have no need of even one little member. You need every fingernail, every cell, as well as every organ and every limb (1 Corinthians 12:14–17). Every member is needed and everybody is important, from the lowliest to the mightiest, from the most insignificant to the seemingly most important. Everyone has his job, everyone is needed, and all must work together in unity and harmony and cooperation.

Talk together, discuss together, counsel together, agree together, decide together, do together, bear together, care together, grow together, work together, and enjoy the fruits of your labors together. Then and only then will you be a wise leader and a good executive. •

KEYS

to good communication



GOOD COMMUNICATION WITH ALMOST ANYONE—your husband or wife, boss, coworkers, children, parents, or friends—depends on a few basic principles of people handling. Learn these, and you will be well on the way to happy, productive relationships.

HONESTY. Good communication is built on mutual respect, and respect depends on honesty. If you want to get off on the right foot with others, be honest and straightforward from the start.

TACT. It's important to be honest, but it's also important to be loving and considerate in your presentation, especially with people who are naturally sensitive or when the subject could be sensitive.

WISDOM. Wisdom is what helps you be tactful. You can get wisdom through experience, or you can get it by asking God for it. He's promised it to you in the Bible, in James 1:5, if you ask Him for it.

LOVE. When people feel loved or cared for, it puts everything else in proper perspective. You

may not do or say everything right, but if others see that you are motivated by love, little problems or misunderstandings won't become big ones.

PRAYERFULNESS. A silent mental prayer is good in any situation, but sometimes praying together and out loud can help things click between you and in the spiritual realm like nothing else. Praying together creates a peaceful atmosphere and inspires unity, and when you acknowledge that you need the Lord's thoughts and help, He's happy to give them.

POSITIVENESS. Being upbeat usually elicits a positive response. Encouragement and sincere compliments are always appreciated.

INITIATIVE. Fear of being misunderstood or rejected often holds both parties back. Taking the first step expresses faith in the other person, which usually helps him or her overcome any reservations.

TIMING. Knowing when to say something is often as important as knowing what to say. "A wise man's heart dis-

cerns both time and judgment" (Ecclesiastes 8:5).

SENSITIVITY. It's not good to be so sensitive to your own needs that your feelings are easily hurt, but it is good to be sensitive to others' likes and dislikes, needs, and moods.

OPEN-MINDEDNESS. People's opinions and the way they approach problems are as different as the people themselves. Turning off your thoughts and being quiet long enough to let others express their feelings conveys respect and fosters positive, fruitful exchanges. People will be much more at ease with you and more likely to turn to you for advice if they know you will be open to what they have to say, even if you don't agree.

EMPATHY. Put yourself in the other person's position and try to understand the feelings that are behind what he or she is saying.

PATIENCE. It's sometimes hard to listen to what others have to say without interrupting, trying to hurry them along, or finishing their sentences for them,



ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

Q: *I work hard to succeed at what I do, but I also try to do it in such a way that it pleases God. When I succeed, why is it necessary to thank Him when I'm the one who worked so hard at it?*

A: If, as you say, you have given your heart to Jesus and your desire is to please the Lord, then you no doubt look to Him for help and guidance in everything you do, and will therefore want to thank Him and give Him credit when He helps you to succeed.

A good example from the Bible of this is when a crowd gathered around Peter and John after the lame man was healed at the Temple and Peter told them, "Why do you marvel at this? Or why look so intently at us, as though by our own power or godliness we had made this man walk? God has glorified His Servant Jesus. Faith which comes through Him has given this man this perfect soundness in the presence of you all" (Acts 3:1-16).

God's Word tells us, "Let the redeemed of the Lord say so" (Psalm 107:2), and, "You who make mention of the Lord, do not keep silent" (Isaiah 62:6). The Lord wants and expects His children who know and love Him to let others know that He is their God, their strength, and their helper. You shouldn't hesitate to let people know that He is the One who helps you accomplish anything. "It is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13).

When you say, "Thank God!" when things are going well, you are giving God the glory. Every time you say, "Thank the Lord," you are giving God the credit. Even if you only say, "God bless you" to others, you are reminding them of the Lord.

To accomplish what God wants you to, you must rely on the Lord's help. To meet the challenges you face, you must know that real strength comes not by your own might or power, but by His Spirit (Zechariah 4:6).

If you constantly remind yourself and others that you are just a tool in the Lord's hands, then He will get all the glory for anything good that He does through you. You will also find that He will bless and use you more than ever if you faithfully give Him all the glory.

God's Word says, "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he understands and knows Me, that I am the Lord" (Jeremiah 9:23-24). •

but it's a way of showing love and respect, which pay off.

A SENSE OF HUMOR. A little laughter can be just the thing to keep potentially difficult exchanges from getting too intense. Lighten up!

APPROACHABILITY. The dictionary defines approachability as "invitingly friendly; easy to talk to." When someone knows you will take time for him or her, you've won a friend.

CLARITY. There would be a lot fewer misunderstandings between people if they didn't beat around the bush or rely so much on hints. Don't leave others guessing; say what you mean. If you're not sure they understand your point, ask them.

EFFORT. Sometimes communicating is plain hard work—but the rewards are worth it!

CONSISTENCY. People who communicate regularly understand each other better and are more likely to be able to work through problems when they come up. •

The Four BEASTS and the Little Horn

FULFILLED BIBLE PROPHECY PROVES that the Bible is the inspired Word of God. It also gives us faith that prophecies that are yet to be fulfilled will also happen, and exactly as the Bible says they will. That's why the book of Daniel is so important: It contains prophecies that have very clearly and specifically been fulfilled, as well as ones about momentous events that many Bible scholars and other Christians believe will come to pass in our lifetime.

As recorded in Daniel chapter 2, in 602 BC King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had a dream of a great image, which the prophet Daniel interpreted to represent

succeeding world empires, from his day right through to when Jesus returns to establish His kingdom on earth.

Nearly 50 years later, in 553 BC, Daniel himself had a dream in which four of the same empires were represented, as well as the soon-coming Antichrist world government.

In the first year of Belshazzar king of Babylon Daniel had a dream and visions of his head upon his bed: then he wrote the dream, and told the sum of the matters.

Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea.

And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.

The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings: I beheld till the wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and a man's heart was given to it.

And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear, and it raised up itself on one side, and it had three ribs in the mouth of it between the teeth of it: and they said thus unto it, Arise, devour much flesh.

After this I beheld, and lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads; and dominion was given to it.

After this I saw in the night visions, and behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong exceedingly; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and



Behold a fourth beast, dreadful and terrible, and strong; and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it.

brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it; and it had ten horns.

I considered the horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things. (Daniel 7:1–8 KJV)

The four beasts in Daniel's dream represent the first four empires that were represented by the image King Nebuchadnezzar had seen in a dream years earlier, as recorded in Daniel chapter 2.

"Behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea" (v.2). The four winds represent spiritual forces through which God has the final say as to who rules over the kingdoms of men (Daniel 4:25). In the Bible, the sea often symbolizes the sea of humanity (Luke 21:25; Revelation 17:15).

"And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another" (v.3). Throughout history, nations have adopted animals, birds, or other creatures as national emblems—the American eagle, the Russian bear, the Chinese dragon, the British lion, and so on. Remarkable, isn't it, how accurately those emblems often personify the nations associated with them!

"The first was like a lion, and had eagle's wings" (v.4). Babylon is symbolized in the Bible by both a lion (Jeremiah 4:7) and an eagle (Jeremiah 49:22). The winged lion was also a common motif in Babylonian art. The king of beasts and king of birds—a picture of strength and swiftness.

"The wings thereof were plucked, and it was lifted up from the earth, and made stand upon the feet as a man, and

a man's heart was given to it" (v.4). The mighty beast is brought low and then redeemed. This represents Nebuchadnezzar's seven-year period of insanity, his humbling through that, and the positive change that took place in him as a result, as recorded in Daniel chapter 4.

"And behold another beast, a second, like to a bear" (v.5). A bear is slow, awkward, and lumbering, and depends on brute force, and that is how Persia became a dominant empire—by brute force and strength of numbers. Modern historians estimate that the combined land and naval force of Xerxes, the fourth king of the Persian Empire, was between 200,000 and 300,000 warriors—huge for the sixth century BC.

"It raised up itself on one side" (v.5). This signifies how the Persians, who were once dominated by the Medes, gained the upper hand in their union after Cyrus the Great ascended to the Persian throne in 550 BC.

"It had three ribs in the mouth" (v.5). The three ribs symbolize the three previous world empires: Egypt (c. 2100 BC to 1481 BC), Assyria (c. 1100 BC to 606 BC), and Babylon (606 BC to 538 BC).

"Lo another, like a leopard, which had upon the back of it four wings of a fowl; the beast had also four heads" (v.6). The leopard, which represents the Greek Empire here, is the most agile of wild beasts and extremely fierce. Its four wings denote the swiftness with which Alexander the Great, king of Macedonia and the leader of the Greeks, conquered the Persian Empire. In eight years the Greeks marched and conquered from Greece to India. Its four heads represent the division of Alexander's empire after his sudden death from a fever in 323 BC, at age 32 and the height of his power (Daniel 8:1-8, 20–22; 11:1–4).

"Behold a fourth beast, dreadful and

terrible, and strong exceedingly, and it had great iron teeth: it devoured and brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with the feet of it: and it was diverse from all the beasts that were before it, and it had ten horns" (v.7). Babylon, Persia, Greece, and other empires had conquered and ruled by might, but the world had never seen anything like the Roman Empire!

We can tell from looking at history that Daniel correctly predicted the next three empires that would follow Babylon, the empire in power at the time of this dream. So what did God reveal to Daniel about *our* future?

"I considered the [ten] horns, and, behold, there came up among them another little horn, before whom there were three of the first horns plucked up by the roots: and, behold, in this horn were eyes like the eyes of man, and a mouth speaking great things" (v.8). This "little horn" with "eyes like a man" and "mouth speaking great things" is the soon-coming world dictator known as the Antichrist, the Devil incarnate (also called "the Beast" in Revelation chapter 13).

Verse 17 begins the interpretation: "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings [representing kingdoms], which shall arise out of the earth."

"Then I would know the truth of the fourth beast ... and of the ten horns that were in his head, and of the other which came up, and before whom three fell; even of that horn that had eyes, and a mouth that spake very great things, whose look was more stout than his fellows" (v.19–20). Here we are told more characteristics of the Antichrist, so we will recognize him when he comes on the world scene.

"The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth. ... And the ten

horns out of this kingdom are ten kings that shall arise" (v.23–24). The 10 horns representing 10 kings also appear in the book of Revelation, in connection with the Antichrist (Revelation 17:12–13). One possible interpretation is that they are nations or powers of the Antichrist's Endtime empire that will come from the remains of the ancient Roman Empire, since the 10-horned Antichrist kingdom grows out of the Roman beast (Daniel 7:7) that ruled much of modern-day Europe. If this interpretation is correct, the European Union (EU) could fulfill the prophecy of the "ten horns" and play an important role in the Endtime.

"And another shall rise after them ... and he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High, and think to change times and laws ... and they shall be given into his hand [for three and a half years]" (v.24–25). Again, this is a picture of the Antichrist's tyrannical rule. He will come to power "peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries" (Daniel 11:21 KJV), but halfway through his seven-year rule he will manifest his true evil character (Daniel 9:27) and persecute all those who oppose him. This three-and-a-half-year period is known as the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:15,21; Daniel 7:21; 11:31; Revelation 13:5–7).

But the Antichrist will fail in the end because Jesus will return and "the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom [after the Battle of Armageddon], and possess the kingdom for ever" (v.18). The happy ending!

This "little horn" with "eyes like a man" and "mouth speaking great things" is the soon-coming world dictator known as the Antichrist, the Devil incarnate.

Are you in tune with the times? Will you recognize the signs of the rise of the Antichrist and his tyrannical one-world government? Will you be prepared? If not, receive Jesus now and study His Word!

From our readers

I subscribed to *Activated* more than a year ago. I have since acquired most of your products [from Aurora Production] for my children, as they have such an incredible effect on them.

Recently my husband disappeared for a while and I didn't have a clue what had happened to him. I asked you, my Christian friends, for desperate prayer for the safety of my husband, and also for my kids and me.

It was through these most difficult days of my life that I found comfort in the Lord's reassuring Word. *Activated* played a very important role to this end. The articles would come alive and talk to me, giving me faith and assurance that He was always there for me, always watching, and that I could place my total trust in Him without a shadow of a doubt.

After more than a month that seemed like eternity, the Lord answered my prayers and my husband contacted me. He had gone to be with his relatives in a far-away province, to reconsider our marriage and lifestyle. After another month of reconciliation and heart-to-heart communication, we are now together again.

Thank you for your prayers and being there for me when I most needed it. I am very thankful to have *Activated* magazines around. Now I am endorsing you to all my friends and relatives. God bless!

—Y.P., PHILIPPINES

Meet the Man

If you haven't yet met the Man who has power to forgive the past, transform the present, brighten the future, and grant heavenly happiness forever, you can right now. Jesus promises all that if you will sincerely 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. Please come into my heart, give me Your gift of eternal life, and help me to know Your love and peace. Thank You for hearing and answering this prayer and for being with me always, from this moment on. Amen.

FEEDING READING

Secrets of success with people

Be patient and forgiving of others' errors.

Matthew 18:21–22

2 Corinthians 6:4,6

Ephesians 4:1–2

Colossians 3:12–13

Show understanding and sympathy to those who are weaker.

Romans 15:1–2

Galatians 6:1

Be winsome; dwell on points of agreement and things you have in common.

Romans 14:19

1 Corinthians 9:19–22

Look for the good in others.

Philippians 4:8

Titus 3:2

Treat others the way you want to be treated.

Matthew 7:2–5

Matthew 7:12

Luke 6:31–33

God is patient and tolerant with us, and we should be so with others.

Psalms 103:8–10

Romans 5:8

2 Peter 3:9

The gift of greater love

Love for others is a gift from Me. How do you receive it?—Just as you would receive any gift from Me. You simply ask, believe, and accept. How do you enact it?—One step at a time, with one loving deed, followed by another, followed by another.

You can show My love to others in many ways—through forgiveness, mercy, kindness, thoughtfulness, concern, understanding, words of love, words of encouragement, words of praise, taking time to talk, taking time to listen, sympathizing, sharing the load, and giving of yourself even when it is least expected or least deserved.

Receive My gift of love and enact it day by day, step by step, deed by deed, word by word, action by action. Every time you are concerned for others and translate that concern into loving action, you also become a little more like Me, so people will see more of Me and less of you. Every time you share My love, love will come back to you. As you put forth the effort to give more love, I will more than match you; I will pour My love into you in greater measure so you will have more to enjoy and more to share. “Give, and it shall be given unto you.” That’s My rule of giving—the more you give, the more you will receive.



From Jesus with love
