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CHANGE YOUR WORLD

help

NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

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The one sure cure
for substance abuse

666 WATCH

Human chip implants
—What's next?

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PERSONALLY SPEAKING

The New Year is sort of like the first day of school. It's as though God gives us each a spotless new notebook, sharp new pencils, new textbooks full of new lessons, and a fresh start. Whether or not that comes as a happy thought to you probably depends on how well you did in the last grade, last year. If you excelled, you're probably ready to greet the New Year with high hopes and bring-it-on enthusiasm. If you just barely squeaked by, you probably feel something between jitters and trepidation.

Either way, this coming year can be your best yet because Jesus wants to be your personal tutor. He's pretty smart, and if you're smart you'll take Him up on His offer. Who could better help you through the school of life? After all, He designed the course, wrote the textbook, and put together the tests, so of course He understands the material inside and out and has all the answers. What's more, He loves you dearly and wants to see you succeed even more than you do.

As you learn to take your questions and problems to Him and let Him explain how He sees them, you'll find that things will click like never before. He will help you solve even the toughest problems, and teach you to capitalize on your mistakes by turning them into learning opportunities. He's patient, loving, and wise—and did I mention He knows better than anyone how to make learning fun?

Why struggle on your own for a passing grade when Jesus can help you make the honor roll? And when the final exam comes around, Jesus will help you ace that, too, and you'll be so proud when you hear Him say, "Well done!"

Happy New 2005! Bring it on!

Keith Phillips
For the *Activated* family

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GETTING OUT OF THE HOLE

don't quit

When things go wrong, as they sometimes will,
When the road you're trudging seems all uphill,
When the funds are low and the debts are high,
And you want to smile, but you have to sigh,
When care is pressing you down a bit,
Rest, if you must—but don't you quit.

Life is queer with its twists and turns,
As every one of us sometimes learns,
And many a failure turns about
When he might have won had he stuck it out;
Don't give up, though the pace seems slow—
You might succeed with another blow.

Often the goal is nearer than
It seems to a faint and faltering man,
Often the struggler has given up
When he might have captured the victor's cup.
And he learned too late, when the night slipped down,
How close he was to the golden crown.

Success is failure turned inside out—
The silver tint of the clouds of doubt—
And you never can tell how close you are,
It may be near when it seems afar;
So stick to the fight when you're hardest hit—
It's when things seem worst that you mustn't quit.

—FRANK STANTON

A STORY IS TOLD OF A FARMER who owned an old, decrepit mule. One day the farmer heard the mule braying pitifully and found that it had fallen into an old dried up well. The farmer sympathized with the poor mule, but after assessing the situation he decided that neither the mule nor the well was worth saving. Instead, he called his hired hands and neighbors together, told them what had happened, and enlisted their help to haul dirt and bury the old mule in the well, thus putting him out of his misery.

At first the old mule was hysterical. But as the farmer and the others continued dumping dirt on his back, a thought struck him. Every time a shovelful of dirt landed on his back, he could shake it off and step up. This he did, blow after blow.

Shake it off and step up. Shake it off and step up. Shake it off and step up! No matter how close together or painful the blows or how distressing the situation seemed, the mule fought against panic and just kept right on shaking it off and stepping up. It wasn't long before the old mule, battered and exhausted, stepped triumphantly out of the well.

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN



NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE

BY MARIA FONTAINE

OUR OWN WEAKNESS CAN BE OUR SAVING GRACE, because Jesus' strength is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9–10). That concept is so contrary to our natural way of thinking. It's human nature to want to be strong in ourselves, and through that strength, to push forward and make progress. But Jesus tells us that when we feel weak and helpless, that's when miracles start to happen!

Jesus wants to bring each of us to the place of full faith—that place where we continue to hold on to His promises and refuse to quit, even though we don't have an ounce of our own strength left. When we get to this state where we truly know and accept that without Jesus we can do nothing, then He is able to take over. This is when the impossible becomes possible.

So if you've been feeling like you can't go on one more step, then that's just perfect because you're right where you need to

be! But Jesus doesn't want you to *stay* in that state. He wants to move you beyond that point, and He will. When you've come to the end of your own resources, that's when Jesus can step in and do the impossible for you. "If you can believe, all things are possible" (Mark 9:23). Hold Him to that promise. Put Him to the test!

Right now, at this very moment, Heaven is bursting with power, the kind of power that makes the impossible possible. But the Devil knows that if he can get you to swallow his "it's impossible" lie, then you will be defeated before you ever have a chance to see the Lord's power manifested in your life.

This is why the Devil and his band constantly appeal to your carnal reasoning. They attack your faith by planting doubts and offering seemingly sound reasons and logical excuses why it supposedly can't be done. They're quick and crafty and hit hard, so you must be equally militant in rejecting their doubts. Call their bluff! Defy them! Hit them back with the Word of God, like Jesus did—"It is written...!" (Matthew 4:1–11).

Here is how to guard yourself against the "it's impossible" lie:

1 Feed your faith. Faith comes from reading and absorbing God's Word (Romans 10:17). If you don't consistently feed your faith, you'll soon be overwhelmed by the Devil's doubts, because he attacks the hardest when he sees you've let down your guard. Take time to read the written Word, and also to bring your questions and problems to Jesus and ask Him to speak His answers directly to your heart or mind.

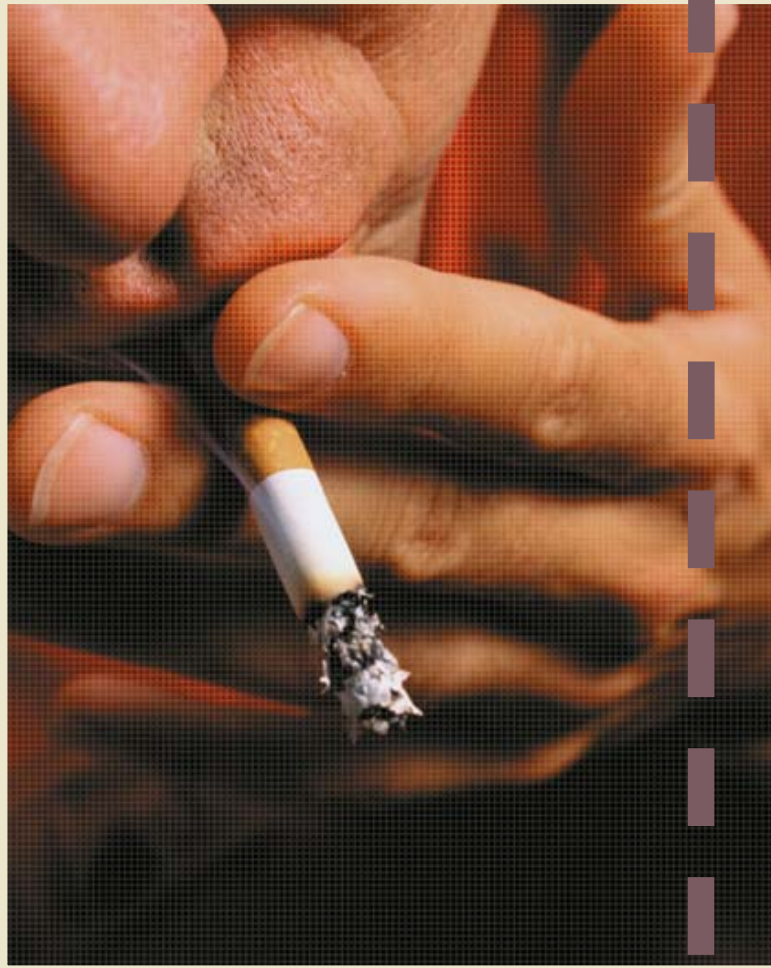
2 Stay focused on Jesus and His promises. Ignore circumstances or other voices that oppose what He tells you to do. When Jesus called Peter to step out of the boat and walk on the water with Him, Peter did fine until he took his eyes off of Jesus, looked down at the waves, and became fearful—then he lost faith and started to sink (Matthew 14:22–32).

3 Put your faith to use every day. The more you exercise your faith, the more miracles you will see and the more your faith will grow.

Don't fall into the Devil's "impossible" trap! Jesus cannot lie. He cannot fail. He cannot be stopped, and there will be no stopping *you* if you avail yourself of His power and help. ▸

When you've come to the end of your own resources, that's when Jesus can step in.

OVERCOMING VICES



HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU TRIED

TO QUIT A BAD HABIT

BUT FOUND YOURSELF ALMOST

POWERLESS TO STOP?

WE ALL HAVE HABITS, BOTH GOOD AND BAD. Anything we do automatically, consciously or unconsciously, is a habit. Good habits such as tidiness, courtesy, punctuality, or good manners are a wonderful thing. But when the habit is bad for us or others, it's what is known as a vice.

How many times have you tried to quit a bad habit but found yourself almost powerless to stop falling into it, no matter how hard you tried? The fact is that we all have human weaknesses that can turn into bad habits or vices if we're not careful.

What most people don't realize is that a vice is often more than just an ingrained natural reaction. When someone has a certain weakness and gives in to it repeatedly, very often the problem has its roots in the spiritual realm, where God and His angelic forces on one hand and the Devil and his evil spirits on the other try to influence our thoughts and actions. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood," the Bible tells us, "but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12 KJV).

So to overcome a vice, you have to get free of whatever evil spirit may be behind it. According to God's Word, there are evil spirits—demons, as they are commonly referred to—that specialize in playing up certain sins and vices to our harm, such as demons of alcoholism, drug addiction, smoking, gambling, gluttony, and eating disorders such as anorexia and bulimia, etc. These are some of the most obvious vices, but there are others: hatred, bitterness, pride, jealousy, self-righteousness, anger, negativity, criticalness, and lying and deception, to name a few. The spiritual powers that bind people to these other vices can be just as strong and destructive as the ones that drive people to compulsive gambling or drug or alcohol addiction.

There are demons that will try to cause damage in almost any area of your life if you let them. This is especially true if you already have a natural weakness along a certain line, like a tendency to be jealous or critical of others, for example. The enemies of your soul—the Devil and his demons—will play on that weakness and tempt you with it every chance you give them.

This is why God's Word says to not give *any* place to the Devil (Ephesians 4:27). When you "give place" to evil spirits, it's like having a boarder in your house who is bent on annoying you and causing you trouble and all kinds of damage. You may tell him to leave several times, but if he refuses, finally by the authority of the law—in this case the authority of God's Word and the name of Jesus—you throw the rotter out!

But before you can get rid of him, you have to recognize that he is there—that there is an actual spiritual force binding you to that vice—and you have to want to be free of that vice badly enough that you are willing to confess your problem to Jesus, pray for deliverance, and take a stand against future temptation.

The moment you pray and ask Jesus to deliver you, you *will* be delivered. You have Jesus' prom-

ise on that: "All authority has been given to Me [Jesus] in Heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). "Whatever you ask in My name, that I will do" (John 14:13). "If the Son [Jesus] makes you free, you shall be free indeed" (John 8:36).

When you pray, remind the Lord of these and other promises He has made in His Word. This shows you have faith in His ability to fulfill His promises. Never doubt for a moment that the Lord is going to answer, and He will. He *has* to because He has promised to.

Some changes are instantaneous, but others take a while. Even after prayer and spiritual deliverance, it often takes time to completely break free from the habit. The Devil and his forces don't just give up and go away. They will try to retake the ground they have lost. But you have the advantage now. Before deliverance, the pestering spirit may have had quite a bit of control, but after deliverance it is within your power to resist its regaining control. This must become the new focus of your prayers. You must also take practical steps to fight falling prey to it again.

Some vices have such a strong grip on their victims that they're almost impossible to overcome without spiritual reinforcements in the form of others' prayers and encouragement. If, after praying for deliverance, strong temptation threatens to rob you of the victory over your vice or addiction, you may need to confess your problem to others who are strong in faith and ask them to pray with you against it, as well as to help provide support and safeguards to help you not give in to temptation. "Admit your faults

THE MOMENT YOU PRAY

AND ASK JESUS TO DELIVER YOU,

YOU WILL BE DELIVERED.



STEP ONE TO PERSONAL PROGRESS

Prayer is the first and greatest step to bringing about change, because you're asking Me to intervene and make a difference. You're commanding Me to take over and get things rolling, to provide momentum in the right direction—a job I love to do.

—JESUS

to one another and pray for each other so that you may be healed [spiritually and physically]. The earnest prayer of a righteous man has great power and wonderful results" (James 5:16 TLB).

"If two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in Heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them" (Matthew 18:19–20).

Although you are delivered from the evil spirit's grip, you still have the ingrained *habit* and will probably continue to be tempted in that area for a while, especially if it has been a big problem for years. But don't give up! Resist the very *thought* of temptation! It's not your fault that you get tempted. Nobody can keep temptation from coming, but you don't have to *yield* to temptation. It's like the saying, "You can't keep birds from

flying over your head, but you can keep them from building a nest in your hair." The Devil can't win unless you surrender! Hit him back every time he tries his tactics on you! "Resist the Devil and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

One of your best defenses against temptation, besides continuing to call on Jesus for help and claiming His promises, is to keep busy for God and others—work therapy that keeps you so busy with positive activities that you don't have time to think about returning to your vice.

Support groups can also be a big help—having others to turn to who understand your situation and have perhaps been through the same or similar problems. "Two are better than one ... for if they fall, one will lift up his companion. Though one may be overpowered by another, two can withstand him. And a threefold cord is not quickly broken" (Ecclesiastes 4:9–10,12). If you need help to overcome an addiction or other longstanding problem, contact your nearest community from The Family for prayer, encouragement, counsel, and fellowship.

In extreme cases such as longstanding physical addictions to alcohol or drugs, occasional help from a support group may not be enough—you may need the around the clock help of experienced professionals to get you through the detoxification and rehabilitation stages. It's humbling to admit the need for such help, but it could save your life.

No matter how severe the case, deliverance can be yours through prayer and faith in Jesus. *No one* is beyond His help and *nothing* is too hard for Him (Jeremiah 32:27). "He [Jesus] who is in you is greater than he [the Devil] who is in the world" (1 John 4:4). Jesus is able to break any chain of vice or addiction that may bind you! **▶**

GEORGE'S STORY

BY HANNAH BOOK



His
shriveled
body bore all
the marks
of extreme
alcoholism.

"THIS HUMANITARIAN WORK YOU DO—IS THERE SOME RELIGIOUS MOTIVATION? If it's religious, I'm an atheist." The old bum tugging at my arm looked more like a beast than a man. His shriveled body bore all the marks of extreme alcoholism, but his eyes were alert and pled with mine.

"I was once an atheist, too," I told him.

The large public market in Buenos Aires where this took place is home to many *stevedores* and others who don't have anywhere else to live. During the day, hundreds of street people comb through the garbage and vie for refuse from the produce stalls. It's a pretty rough place. In the two years I've been going there for supplies for our volunteer work, I've gotten to know quite a few of the vendors and many of the regulars. This one wanted to talk. He said his name was Sucker.

For a street drunk, he turned out to be surprisingly well

spoken and educated. Standing there in the market, for the next half hour the man told me his life story—all 64 years of it—including how his police-chief father had been assassinated by the Mafia before his eyes, and how he had then "gone loco" and been uncontrollably violent ever since. By the time he finished, tears were streaming down his face.

What could I say? I prayed silently for the right words. "Do you want to be delivered?" I asked.

"Delivered from what?"

"From your bitterness and fear."

"*No one* can take that away!" Sucker protested.

"I know Someone who can," I told him, "and I have a gift for you."

He caught on immediately that I was talking about Jesus. "Do you know how hard it is for an atheist to receive that gift?" he groaned.

"I was an atheist too, remember. That's why I know this will work for you."

Sucker had no answer for that.

"Do you want to receive Jesus?" I asked outright.

For a long moment he stood perfectly still, staring at me. Then suddenly he exhaled and his arms fell open, as if to receive the gift I was offering him. "Yes, I do," he said.

So I prayed with Sucker to receive Jesus as his Savior, and for Jesus to deliver him from the bit-

terness and fear that had driven him to become an alcoholic.

When I opened my eyes, he looked like a different man!

Before we parted, he said, “Thank you for bringing me this peace—and by the way, my name is George.”

Two weeks later, back at the market, I didn’t even recognize him! He was clean-shaven and well groomed. He was also eager to pray with me and the other members of The Family that I was with, and happy to receive the *Conéctate* (Spanish edition of *Activated*) magazine and small stack of other Family literature we offered him.

The following week he told us that he had read the literature over and over. He had also sat and talked to Jesus for a couple of hours, and had concluded by telling Him he needed to find work. Because of his violent and argumentative behavior, George had been fired from job after job.

“And can you believe it,” he said, “one minute later a boy walked up to me and said his father was offering me a job at his stall—the same man who swore one month ago that I would never work for him again!” George was so excited at how quickly the Lord had answered his prayer!

On that visit, he asked us to pray with him three times about various matters—once for the Lord to help him stop drinking completely. Jesus had been speaking to him about that.

“The strangest thing happened to me the other day,” he said. “I was drinking with my buddies when all of a sudden I felt Jesus nudge me on the shoulder and tell me to put down my wine—and I did! I just got up and walked away. I *never* would have done that before! Then, about 20 minutes later, the men I’d been drinking with started a big fight, and a policeman came to break it up. This policeman knew he could always find me in the middle of a good fight, so when he saw me sitting nearby, not in the melee, he asked, ‘Don’t you belong in there?’ When I told him no, he just stared at me and asked, ‘What’s *happened* to you?’ Jesus is changing me. I can feel it, and

others can see it. Now I want to pray that I can stop drinking completely.”

When George said he didn’t think he could survive another cold, damp winter on the street, I offered to pray for him to find a place to stay at a rent he could afford. He wasn’t so sure.

“Didn’t Jesus get you a job when you thought that was impossible? And isn’t He helping you overcome your alcoholism? Is it any more to ask of Him to give you a place to stay? Now that you belong to the Lord and your heart is on His side, Jesus will never fail to care for you,” I assured him.

He looked at me with hopeful eyes. Then it clicked. “Wow! Of course!” he nearly shouted.

The last time I saw George, he told me that a large citrus company had offered him a supervisory job, complete with living quarters.

Better news still, he said he felt he could once more face his wife and grown twin daughters. “With all the miracles Jesus has done for me, I’m sure He can help me make amends and touch their hearts to take me back. All this is proof that He is with me. Now, no matter what the problem, I feel that Jesus is saying, ‘Trust Me!’” ▶

When I opened my eyes, he looked like a different man!

HANNAH BOOK IS A FULL-TIME VOLUNTEER WITH THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN ARGENTINA.



**A message
from Jesus
about
addictions**

HELP IS HERE!

ALCOHOL AFFECTS DIFFERENT PEOPLE IN DIFFERENT WAYS. It makes some people happy, uninhibited, or relaxed, but it makes others irritable, nervous, angry, solemn, depressed, or withdrawn.

When drunk in moderation, wine has a number of benefits. It can give a light, joyful feeling and brighten the countenance. It even has medicinal qualities that can relieve indigestion and bring rest and relaxation. But when drunk in excess, it can be a destructive tool of the Devil to adversely influence one's spirit, thoughts, and actions, and alter the personality—and it can become an addiction.

Those who depend on alcohol or any other substance for happiness

and peace of mind are being deceived. The peace and happiness that alcohol gives are temporary and shallow, because no physical agent—be it alcohol, drugs, or anything else—can satisfy the needs of the spirit. Only I can truly meet those needs. In Me, those who are receptive to the truth find genuine, lasting happiness and peace.

You may feel happy and relaxed after one or two drinks or one or two pills, but if you find you can't be that way *without* those things, then you are in danger of becoming dependent on them. You may say, "Well, if it makes my problems easier to bear, or helps me to carry on with my work for the day in a better spirit, or makes me easier to get along with, then why shouldn't I have it? Why is it wrong?" It's wrong because of the dangers it can lead to if not kept in check. It may seem innocent enough at first and you may feel you can keep it under control, but if you become dependent on that drink or drug, it

**I cannot and will not fail, but
you must put your trust in Me.**

will eventually take a toll on you physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

Those who have made the mistake of turning to alcohol or drugs can tell you of the dangers. They can tell you how their dependence led to sorrow and heart-break and mistake upon mistake. They can tell you how it led to broken lives and broken relationships. They can tell you how it made it impossible for them to cope with their work and other situations. They can tell you of the depths to which they sank, until finally they had nothing else to lean on and no one else to turn to but Me.

But those who did turn to Me when they hit rock bottom can also tell you of My unfailing love and power to deliver, no matter how serious or long standing their problem. *I* am the one sure cure for all your problems, including all forms of substance abuse. If you truly want to be delivered and are willing to do your part, I can and will deliver you. By My Spirit, I can override any physical addiction, and I have for tens

of thousands—often with few or no withdrawal symptoms.

I gave My life for you. If I loved you that much, how could I *ever* fail you when you turn to Me for help? I cannot and will not fail, but you must put your trust in Me. You must look to Me for the solutions to your problems, including this one. If you truly want a new start, here's your opportunity! The door is wide open—walk right through!

Like I give you salvation, I can give you deliverance from a physical addiction as an outright gift. You don't get it because you deserve it, and you couldn't pay for it at any price; only I could do that. The gift is waiting for you, but I can't force it on you. You must make a conscious decision and reach out to receive it. You must pray, "Jesus, this problem is too big for me, but I believe it's not too big for You because You say so. Deliver me now, this instant, and continue to deliver me from every temptation as it comes in the hours and days and weeks ahead, according to Your promises. Amen."

Ask and it's done! But unlike salvation, you *can* lose your victory over your addiction by surrendering to temptation—and strong temptation *will* come, especially at first. When the Devil sees that you have turned to Me and put your will on My side, he will tempt you all the more. When that happens, you must call on Me again for help. If he tempts you a thousand times, call on Me a thousand times to deliver you and a thousand times I will. You're not strong enough to fight the Devil on your own, but together we can drive him and his temptations far from you.



Moment by moment and temptation by temptation pray, “Jesus, fight for me! Help me through this next minute, this next hour! Override the uncontrollable craving I’m feeling by Your power, and ease the tension and pain. Fill my heart and mind with positive thoughts from Your Word. You promised to deliver me from this addiction and give me something better, and I hold You to that promise now!”

Then open your Bible or other faith-building literature that extols Me and My power, and start reading. I will open your eyes to its truths, and thrill you through and through. I will help you through that moment of temptation and you will be stronger for it. I can’t promise how quickly the final victory will come, but I can promise that I will never fail you and that it will get easier over time.

I hold within My hands the power to restore your life as you turn to Me, yield to My Spirit, trust Me to do what you can’t do, and hang on to My promises with unwavering determination. I can yet make something beautiful of your life

as you let Me pour My Spirit over you and cover you with My love. I can make you whole in body, mind, and spirit as you read and soak up the truth of My Word.

There is no stopping place with Me, no limit to what I can do for you! All you have to do is hold on to Me by faith. Set your heart and mind and affections on Me and My Word, and I will make your life brand new.

You have to believe that I am in control of your life, and trust that I will not fail. You will face other temptations, but they are only temporary and can easily be swept away by calling on Me and My power to deliver. “Jesus, I need You now! Deliver me from this temptation and give me something better—more of Your love, more of Your Spirit, more truth from Your Word!”

As you continue to trust Me and follow My Word as closely as you can, I will lead you down a new path filled with new beauties, new experiences, and new joy—places where the old man who relied on the bottle or drugs could never go! 📌

CHOICES

SATAN AND HIS DEMONS ARE ALWAYS TRYING TO TAKE CONTROL of whatever they can get. They will tell you things like, “It’s only a small thing.” “Go ahead just this once.”



“You can stop doing this any time you want.” The choice is yours to listen to those voices and give in, or to send them away.

Don’t let the enemy of your soul deceive you into thinking that just a little bit of giving in to him is okay. If you keep making the wrong decisions in seemingly small things, you will never be able to make the right decisions in the bigger things.

This is not to say that if you make one wrong decision you’re doomed. Everyone makes some wrong decisions. It’s what you do about it when you find that you have made a wrong choice that determines which way you will go from there. If you aren’t willing to face the facts, most likely you will continue to make the same mistake. But if you recognize the error of your way, turn to Me for help, and learn from your mistake, you’ll come out the better for it.

—JESUS

MORE ON HUMAN CHIP IMPLANTS

MICROCHIP IMPLANTS ARE NOW BEING USED to monitor children, convicts, pets, Alzheimer's patients, and others. A few otherwise ordinary people have also taken the step of receiving computer chip implants as pioneers of what they expect will one day be the worldwide norm.

Chipping of people began in the U.S. in May 2002, when several volunteers had 12-by-2.1 mm radio frequency identification (RFID) "VeriChips" inserted under the skin of their arms.

More recently, at the Baja Beach Club in Barcelona, Spain, customers began paying for drinks with the wave of their hand, having each received a microchip implant for ID and payment purposes. Chipped members are able to breeze past a "reader" that verifies their identity and links it to their current credit balance, and even automatically opens doors to exclusive areas of the club for them. They can then buy food and drinks with a wave of their hand and don't need to worry about losing a credit card or wallet.

Palm Beach-based Applied Digital Solutions (ADS) touts this application of the chip implant as an advance over credit cards and smart cards, which, without biometrics and appropriate safeguard technologies, are subject to theft resulting in identity fraud.

Conrad K. Chase, director of the Baja Beach Club, calls the chip implant the wave of the future. "The objective of this technology is to bring an ID system to a global level that will destroy the need to carry ID documents and credit cards." According to Chase, ADS's goal is to market the VeriChip as a global implantable identification system.

The significance of this latest development is that the chips being used in Spain are a fraction of the size of the original VeriChip—small enough to be syringe-injected—and they are not being implanted in the arm, but the *hand*.

And at least one national government is now sanctioning microchip implants. Mexico's top federal prosecutors and investigators began receiving microchip implants in their arms in November 2003. Since then, Mexico's attorney general, at least 160 people in his office, and a large number of the Mexico police force have been chipped. Antonio Aceves, general director of Solusat, the company that distributes the microchips in Mexico, says key members of the Mexican military and the office of President Vicente Fox may be next.

The Bible's book of Revelation states that the regime of the coming world dictator known as the Antichrist "causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name" (Revelation 13:16–17).

The hi-tech means of fulfilling this chilling vision that the apostle John received nearly 2000 years ago is rapidly developing! Now the question is how soon the Antichrist's "666" credit system will become universal and mandatory.

Are you in tune with the times—the signs of the End? Read the news and study Bible prophecy, and you will see how current events confirm we are living in the Endtime. ▀

Answers from God

For all the negative things we say to ourselves,
God has given us His positive responses in the Bible.

You say, "It's impossible."

God says, "All things are possible with Me" (Luke 18:27).

You say, "I'm so tired."

God says, "I will give you rest" (Matthew 11:28–30).

You say, "Nobody really loves me."

God says, "I love you" (John 3:16 and 13:34).

You say, "I can't go on."

God says, "My grace is sufficient and I will always be there to help you" (2 Corinthians 12:9 and Psalm 91:15).

You say, "I can't figure things out."

God says, "I will direct your steps" (Proverbs 3:5–6).

You say, "I can't do it."

God says, "You can do all things through My strength" (Philippians 4:13).

You say, "I'm not able."

God says, "I am able" (2 Corinthians 9:8).

You say, "It's not worth it."

God says, "It will be worth it" (Romans 8:18).

You say, "I can't forgive myself."

God says, "I forgive you" (1 John 1:9 and Romans 8:1).

You say, "I can't manage."

God says, "I will supply all your needs" (Philippians 4:19).

You say, "I'm afraid."

God says, "Be not afraid, for I am with you" (Jeremiah 42:11).

You say, "I'm always worried and frustrated."

God says, "Cast all your cares on Me" (1 Peter 5:7).

You say, "I don't have enough faith."

God says, "I've given everyone a measure of faith" (Romans 12:3b).

You say, "I'm not smart enough."

God says, "I give you wisdom" (James 1:5 and 1 Corinthians 1:30).

You say, "I feel all alone."

God says, "I will never leave you or forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5).

THE NEW YEAR IS A GREAT TIME to make a new start, and there is no better way to do that than by receiving Jesus as your Savior. In fact, receiving Jesus brings such a dramatic transformation that Jesus Himself called it being "born again." If you haven't yet met Jesus or received His forgiveness and gift of eternal life, you can right now by praying the following:

Thank You, Jesus, for paying the price for my mistakes and wrongs, so I can be forgiven. I ask You now, dear Jesus, to please come into my heart, forgive me, and give me Your gift of eternal life. Amen.

FROM OUR MAILBOX

Through some friends—or should I say through God's engineering—I got ahold of a couple of your magazines, and they led me gently and lovingly into the Almighty's arms. Because of the temptations of this world, I never dared get close to Him, as too often I have yielded to temptation's call. I believed in God, but I feared His punishment and kept far from Him. But after reading the messages on the back covers, "From Jesus with Love," I no longer fear Him because I know that He really does love me, and that when I fall into temptation, He will not turn His back on me but will stretch out His hand to rescue and guide me!

—MARIUS, ROMANIA

The *Conéctate* (Spanish *Activated*) magazines have helped me grow spiritually. The articles don't complicate the Gospel. My life is loaded with problems, but also filled with hope and trust in the Lord. He didn't say we wouldn't have problems, but promised to deliver us from them all. I learned this principle from *Conéctate*, and I prove it every day of my life.

—ALICIA, CHILE

Your *Activated* Web site [www.activated.org] is very good. I was surprised to find so many new revelations on the Word of God posted there.

—JOSEPH, INDIA

One day I came home and found my wife reading an *Activated* magazine and crying. When I asked her what was wrong she answered, "Nothing is wrong—everything is so right! I had such a hard day, but when I read 'From Jesus with Love' on the back of this magazine, I felt He was speaking directly to me. He really does love me!"

—BEN, PHILIPPINES

FEEDING READING

OVERCOMING TEMPTATION

Temptations come from inordinate desires, instigated by the Devil.
Genesis 3:1–6,13
Matthew 4:1–7
James 1:13–14

Avoid the pathway to temptation.
Proverbs 4:14–15
Matthew 7:13–14
2 Timothy 2:22a

Beware of those who would entice you.
Psalm 1:1–2
Proverbs 1:10
2 Peter 3:17

Know your weaknesses.
Romans 13:14
Galatians 6:1b

Be on guard against the Devil's treachery.
1 Thessalonians 5:8
1 Peter 5:8

Keep your eyes on Jesus.
Hebrews 11:27
Hebrews 12:2–3

Pray and ask the Lord to help you.
Matthew 6:13a

Matthew 26:41
James 5:16

Resist the Devil.
Ephesians 4:27
James 4:7

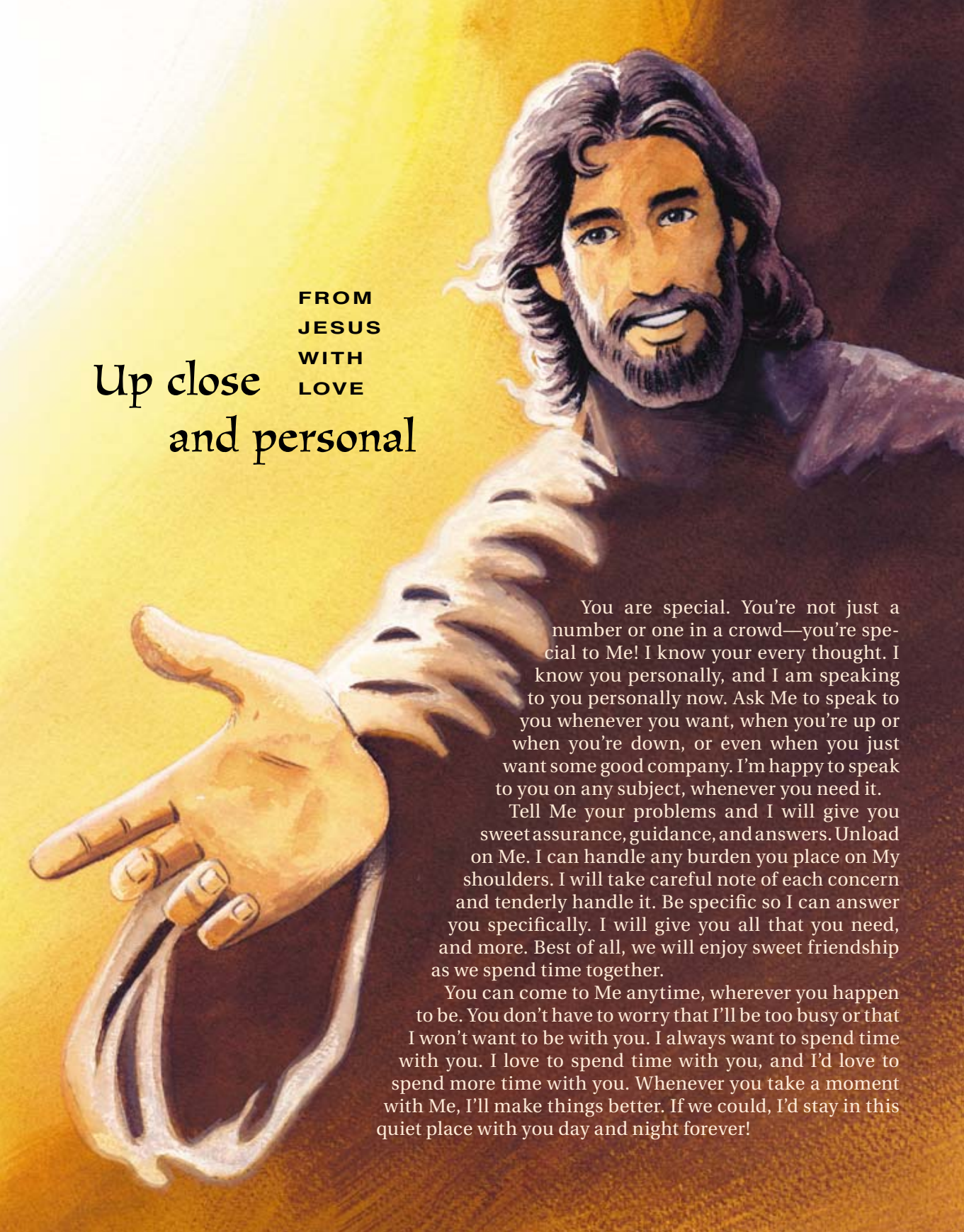
Cling to God's Word.
John 15:3
2 Peter 1:4
Revelation 3:10

Be willing to give up your own desires out of love for Jesus.
Galatians 5:16
Galatians 5:24
Ephesians 4:20–23

Exercise willpower; determine not to yield to temptation.
Romans 6:13
1 Corinthians 9:27
1 Peter 2:11

Keep your heart and mind on the final goal.
Hebrews 11:25–26
Hebrews 12:2

The Lord will deliver you.
Isaiah 43:1–2
1 Corinthians 10:13b
1 Corinthians 15:57
Hebrews 4:15-16
2 Peter 2:9



**FROM
JESUS
WITH
LOVE**

Up close
and personal

You are special. You're not just a number or one in a crowd—you're special to Me! I know your every thought. I know you personally, and I am speaking to you personally now. Ask Me to speak to you whenever you want, when you're up or when you're down, or even when you just want some good company. I'm happy to speak to you on any subject, whenever you need it.

Tell Me your problems and I will give you sweet assurance, guidance, and answers. Unload on Me. I can handle any burden you place on My shoulders. I will take careful note of each concern and tenderly handle it. Be specific so I can answer you specifically. I will give you all that you need, and more. Best of all, we will enjoy sweet friendship as we spend time together.

You can come to Me anytime, wherever you happen to be. You don't have to worry that I'll be too busy or that I won't want to be with you. I always want to spend time with you. I love to spend time with you, and I'd love to spend more time with you. Whenever you take a moment with Me, I'll make things better. If we could, I'd stay in this quiet place with you day and night forever!