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A message from Jesus

HERE COMES THE ANTICHRIST

An interview with God





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What's the difference between religion and Jesus? Perhaps you've heard this analogy: "Religion is us reaching up to God; Jesus is God reaching down to us." That's true, but there is a lot more to the second part than most people realize. We make contact with God through His Son, Jesus, when we receive Him as our Savior, but while salvation is a one-time thing, our contact with Jesus isn't meant to be. Neither is it meant to be a once-a-week or once-in-a-blue-moon thing. It's meant to be a daily thing—direct, personal, daily contact that develops over time into a deep, vibrant, and mutually satisfying relationship.

By the time most of us discover that Jesus is alive and cares about us personally, though, we've spent years trying to make our way through life on our own. Because we've become more or less self-sufficient and comfortable with reality as we've always perceived it, in a world without Jesus, it often comes as a whole new thought that we can involve Him in our everyday decisions and activities. This brings us to what is possibly the second most important decision we will ever make, after receiving Jesus: Will we welcome Him into our everyday life so our relationship can grow and He can bless us to the full? Or will we continue to live in our shadow reality, relying on our own reasoning, experience, and other resources? That's a decision we all make every day, consciously or unconsciously.

It takes effort to change our habits and thought patterns to include Jesus more, but the rewards are out of this world. Every time we reach out to Him by turning our thoughts into conversations with Jesus, He's there to listen and help us in wonderful and often surprising ways. Make a little more room for Jesus every day, and every day will be better than the day before!

KEITH PHILLIPS

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CROSSING OVER

By Curtis Peter Van Gorder

WHEN WE PUT OUR FAITH INTO PRACTICE, WE CROSS OVER FROM BEING NOMINAL BELIEVERS TO BEING INSTRUMENTS OF GOD'S LOVE. A friend of mine, Jamal, who is a pharmacist, told me about one of his recent "crossing over" experiences. It went like this.

One day a young man handed Jamal his prescription to treat insomnia. Jamal looked over the list of medicines and was shocked. "Are you sure you want to take all of these medicines?" he asked.

"Of course I am!" came the reply. "I can't sleep, and it's ruining my life!"

Jamal took a deep breath. "You realize that some of these medicines have strong side effects, don't you? Plus they are going to cost you a fortune. If you don't mind me asking, why can't a healthy-looking fellow like you sleep?"

The young man looked troubled. "Because from the moment I lay my head on the pillow, I can't stop thinking about my future!"

"What about it?" Jamal asked.

The young man proceeded to explain his problems in detail, and Jamal listened patiently. Then Jamal offered some fatherly advice. "Our future is in God's hands, and He wants us to be happy and fulfilled. When we give our hearts to Him and communicate with Him about the things we do and the choices we make, He is able to step in and help us. We also find peace of mind and can stop worrying about our future as we become more aware of His loving plan for our lives."

The young man nodded in agreement, but his mind seemed to still be on his problems. "My doctor also wants to treat me once a week with electric shocks," he said matter-of-factly.

Jamal grimaced. "What? There *has* to be a better solution than that!"



"But what?" the young man asked.

Jamal said a silent prayer for wisdom and was suddenly inspired with an idea. "I have a friend who works as a trainer in a gym, and I think he might be able to help. I suggest you go see him."

That seemed like a good idea to the young man, and he headed straight to the gym.

A couple of hours later Jamal phoned his friend to find out how it had gone.

"I put him on a treadmill as soon as he came in," the trainer said, "and he's still at it. He's got so much pent-up energy, it's no wonder he hasn't been able to sleep!"

A few days later the young man returned to the pharmacy and excitedly told Jamal, "I've started going to the gym every day, and I've slept soundly every night since!"

"What about your prescription?" Jamal asked.

"I threw it away. And by the way, you were right. God knew exactly what I needed!" ■

Curtis Peter Van Gorder is a full-time volunteer with the Family International in the Middle East.



Connected

I WANT TO BE A VERY PRESENT HELP, COWORKER, COMPANION, AND FRIEND AS YOU GO ABOUT YOUR BUSY DAYS. I want to make a strong connection with you first thing in the morning, and then I want to keep that connection strong all day long as we enjoy each other's company, talk things over, and work things out together.

You're in the habit of launching right into your day without making that connection, and when situations or problems arise you try to sort them out on your own, as best you can. By the time you remember to pray—if you remember at all—you've usually already decided what to do, based on your experience or what seems reasonable. Because I can see things more clearly and completely than you can, I often have a better plan, but it's hard for Me to get through to you because your own thoughts get in the way. You mean well, but things would go smoother and turn out better if you were in closer communication with Me.

So before your day begins, take a few quiet minutes with Me. Try to block from your mind all of your plans and thoughts about the day ahead and spend those few minutes reading My Word, thinking about Me, thanking Me for all I've done for you in the past, and thanking Me in advance for My continued help and blessings. As you do these things, our minds and spirits will meet. Once you've made that connection, if you will continually turn your thoughts toward Me, My love, peace, and power will carry you through the day, come what may.

As things come up don't just ask yourself, "What should I do now?" or "What should I say?" but ask Me. When you have a problem or feel frustrated or hurried or worried or confused or discouraged, tell Me about it. Come to Me and I'll give you exactly what you need at the time, whether it's solutions or help or comfort or reassurance or encouragement. You'll find overcoming power in My presence.

Abide in Me and let Me abide in you continually. Talk to Me, sing to Me, converse with Me, listen to Me, commune with Me. That sounds good, you may think, but it also sounds very spiritual, and you wonder if you can do it. But in reality it's a very practical matter with very practical benefits. It's also not hard once you get in the habit. You *think* all day long, don't you? Don't you always have thoughts running through your mind—how to do this or that, where to go when, what to say next, and so on? You talk to yourself continually. Well, talk to *Me* instead. Why talk to yourself when you can talk to Me and get My help?

I want to be a constant presence in your life. Won't you let Me? Won't you talk to Me more as you go about your business, sharing your thoughts and desires with Me? I want to share My thoughts and heart with you too, to develop bonds of love and fellowship and to be that constant presence, that constant companion, because I love you.

As you give Me more room in your thoughts, you will take on more of My mind, My attitudes, My thoughts. Then I will be able to get through to you easier and better guide your actions. I will be able to give you the right perspective on your work, your relations with others, yourself, and the world around you. I will be able to remind you of things to do, give you new ideas or new ways of doing things, and provide the answers you need. Come to Me in quietness and trust, and you will find the strength and power you need. Draw close to Me and I will draw close to you. That's a promise! ■

PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Thank You, Jesus, for being so concerned about me, and thank You for all You do to make sure I have all my needs met, whether spiritual, physical, or emotional. You are my best friend, confidant, instructor, guide, and coworker. In every aspect and activity of my life, You are the perfect companion. You're so very fun, relaxed, wise, understanding, resourceful, caring, helpful, and encouraging. Thank You for being my partner in all the ups and downs and ins and outs of life. I want to share every moment with You.

I MET GOD IN THE MORNING

I met God in the morning,
When the day was at its best,
And His presence came like sunrise,
Like a glory in my breast.

All day long the presence lingered,
All day long He stayed with me,
And we sailed in perfect calmness
O'er a very troubled sea.

Other ships were blown and battered.
Other ships were sore distressed.
But the winds that seemed to drive them,
Brought to me a peace and rest.

Then I thought of other mornings,
With a keen remorse of mind,
When I too had loosed the moorings,
With the presence left behind.

So, I think I know the secret,
Learned from many a troubled way:
You must seek Him in the morning
If you want Him through the day.

—Ralph Spaulding Cushman



SHORTER STRIDES, *FASTER PROGRESS*



A couple of years ago I started running for exercise, and I've tried to be consistent with it. I quickly built up to longer distances and durations than when I started, but then I hit a plateau and stayed there for a year or more. I found it difficult to increase my endurance beyond a certain point, and I found it particularly difficult to increase my speed.

Then about a month ago I went for a run with a friend who's been running for years and is in excellent shape, and I asked him to critique my running.

"If you take shorter strides than you're taking now and let your feet move more quickly," he advised, "you'll last longer and your running speed will pick up."

That hadn't occurred to me before. I hadn't been trying to move in any particular manner, but just let my body

By Jessie Richards

take me where and how it would. When I started paying attention and focusing on taking smaller steps, I found that I didn't really have to try to move more quickly; it just happened. The change wasn't dramatic, but enough for me to tell I was making progress.

A month later my running has definitely improved. My breathing is less labored, my energy level stays higher, and my speed is increasing. This morning I ran the same distance on the track where I made my discovery, and did so in considerably less time, even without consciously trying. Best of all, I didn't feel like I was straining, struggling, and short on breath. I felt relaxed and enjoyed it from start to finish. In fact, I felt that I could have just as easily kept running.

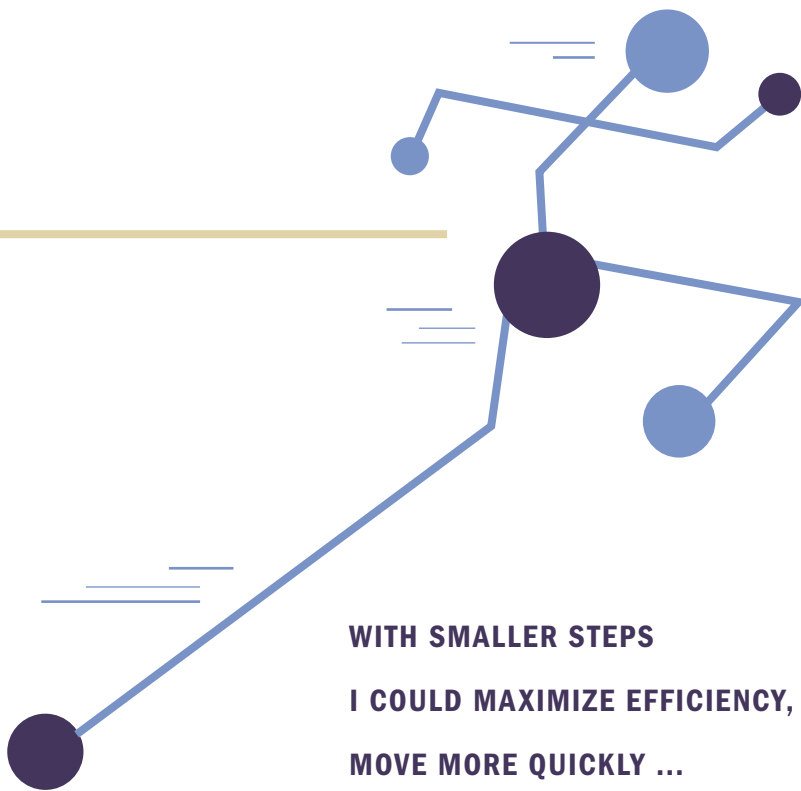
While praying one morning shortly after my discovery, it occurred to me that I should test the same principle in other areas of my life, particularly my work. I like to think of myself as a "get things done" person, but I have to admit that I have a problem with procrastinating. It's not that I'm lazy. I'm happy to work hard and put in the hours, and I relish few things more than completing a project. Yet I find myself habitually avoiding the initial dig into large or long-term jobs, often putting them off until I have to cram to meet a deadline.

Recently I figured out why I do that: I've always assumed that I needed to make progress on big projects in big strides. But Jesus helped me see that by applying my running principle to my work, with smaller steps I could maximize efficiency,

Growing Spiritually

You can't make yourself grow spiritually. It doesn't come by self-effort. It comes by living close to Jesus, living in His Word, soaking up His love, being filled with His Spirit, and engaging in heart-to-heart communication with Him.

—Virginia Brandt Berg



**WITH SMALLER STEPS
I COULD MAXIMIZE EFFICIENCY,
MOVE MORE QUICKLY ...**

move more quickly, cover the same distance in less time and with less effort, and not be so exhausted at the end.

I no longer wait until I can clear a seven-day block on my calendar before starting a seven-day project. If I have an hour or two today, I can use that time and make a start—a small stride. Then I can work on it a bit tomorrow—another small stride—and a bit more the next day and the next. Working that way, I find myself getting to the end of what initially seemed like a daunting project, even without having devoted huge blocks of time. And I don't feel like I've run a marathon. The job got done because I picked away at it with small steps. And as it's happening, I can breathe! I'm not desperately playing catch-up. I'm not struggling to get in the mileage. I'm learning that sometimes the best and most lasting improvement is made not in one dramatic move, but bit by bit and step by step. Shorter strides make for faster progress. ■

Jessie Richards is a full-time volunteer with the Family International.

FEEDING READING

Benefits of including Jesus in everyday life

WE EXPERIENCE MORE OF JESUS AND HIS LOVE.

Proverbs 8:17
John 14:21
2 Corinthians 3:18
Revelation 3:20

HE SPEAKS TO US AND GUIDES OUR THOUGHTS.

Psalms 25:9
Psalms 32:8
Proverbs 3:5–6
Isaiah 30:21
Isaiah 48:17
James 1:5

HE ANSWERS PRAYER.

Psalms 37:4–5
Isaiah 65:24
Jeremiah 33:3
John 15:7
John 15:16b

HE REFRESHES AND RESTORES OUR SPIRITS.

Exodus 33:14
Psalms 23:2–3
Matthew 11:28–30
2 Corinthians 4:16

HE GIVES US JOY.

Nehemiah 8:10b
Psalms 16:11
Psalms 51:12
1 Peter 1:8

HE GIVES US SPIRITUAL STRENGTH.

Isaiah 40:29–31
Isaiah 30:15
Daniel 11:32b
Ephesians 3:16–19



Lessons of love

By Maria Fontaine

I WENT THROUGH A PERIOD A FEW YEARS AGO WHEN I THREW MYSELF INTO MY WORK LIKE NEVER BEFORE. Most of my coworkers were away at lengthy meetings, so I had a lot of time to myself and worked almost from the time I woke up until the time I went to bed.

There was a newer member of our staff, Matthew, who was helping me with paperwork while the others were gone. I dictated my work notes to him as much as possible because I knew that face-to-face communications would lead to lengthier discussions and I was determined not to be sidetracked.

A week before my coworkers were to arrive home, Jesus spoke to me. Matthew was part of my staff, yet I'd never had any in-depth contact with him. This was a golden opportunity to get to know him better. When the others got back, there would be many more demands on my time.

"But Lord," I protested, "You know how big my workload is and how it takes all of my time and strength. Please don't make me get sidetracked!" I felt very strongly about it.

However, after much prayer, I came to the conclusion that it was the Lord's will for me to have more interaction with Matthew, and I invited him to my office to talk. I ended up doing most of the talking, however, including telling him at length about how important my work was and how spending this time with him was a sacrifice. I didn't even realize how arrogant I was acting!

During the week that followed I began to see that this time with Matthew was mostly for my benefit. Jesus started zeroing in on me and exposing some places where I was not on target in my thinking. He finally managed to get through to me and show me that I needed to start *living* His love. He wanted me to practice what I was preaching. If I didn't love the person right in front of me, how could I, through my writing, love others from afar?

He wanted me to set aside my schedule and take time to learn firsthand the importance of the individual. Even though my work was important, it was not so important that I couldn't stop and care for the individual.

I also became aware that I had a rather condescending attitude toward Matthew. Jesus admonished me through the verse, "No longer do I call you servants, but I have called you friends" (John 15:15). The application was obvious: "Be a true friend to Matthew and stop this condescending attitude."

Jesus not only exposed my self-righteousness, but He also showed me how my attitude toward some people—in this case Matthew—was off because my perception of them was tainted by negative things I had heard about them in the past. When we label people with a certain problem, we usually fail to

take into account that they may have made great progress in overcoming that problem and changed. Needless to say, I felt very bad for having misjudged this dear man.

Jesus taught me several major lessons that week.

He helped me straighten out my priorities. I was focused on my service, when He wanted my love first of all; He wanted me to show Him love by showing love to His loved one, Matthew. “Inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me” (Matthew 25:40).

He wanted me to get more in touch with people, and He reminded me of the importance of getting to know people through listening to them. We can have much more understanding and sympathy for people when we take the time to find out what they’ve been through to get where they are now.

He taught me the importance of seeking Him to find out how He sees people and situations. He helped me under-

stand the importance of not jumping to conclusions, as well as the hurtfulness of labeling people based on their past problems. He reminded me of the need to look at people’s hearts and try to understand their motives. Often what we see is how far people still have to go, and we fail to see the much greater distance that they have come already. This is what the Lord looks at and what we need to learn to look at too, if we are going to see people as He does and love them with His love.

He worked on me and my self-righteousness. It was wonderful practice in honestly sharing my own failings and in being willing to be humbled in that way, which I finally realized I needed. I must not lose sight of the fact that I am often guilty of the same faults and shortcomings that I see in others, or worse.

So as you can see, what I had initially considered a waste of time turned out to be a valuable time of learning. The Lord certainly got a lot of mileage out of that week through the many lessons He taught me—things that He couldn’t have taught me any other way! And as always, the most important lesson was *love*, that we should have His love for others. If we fail to love, we fail Him, we fail others, and we fail ourselves. If we don’t see people through the eyes of love, then we don’t see them accurately. And the only way we can have that kind of love is to ask the Lord for it. ■

Maria Fontaine is the co-leader of the Family International, along with her husband Peter Amsterdam.



NEVER ALONE

You’ll never walk alone if you have Jesus in your heart and your hand in His. If you have Jesus, you always have company and love. No matter where you are, you are in His hands and He’ll take care of you. Jesus is the one possession you’ll never have to give up, never have to leave behind, never lose. You can give Him away as much as you like but you’ll always have Him. He’ll always be near (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5).

He’s always there. It’s not Jesus that’s not always there; it’s we who are sometimes not there. We sometimes run off somewhere else and leave Him way behind. But He never leaves us behind unless we don’t follow. It’s that simple.

—David Brandt Berg

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ANY PEOPLE CONSIDER A LACK OF SELF-CONFIDENCE A WEAKNESS, but it can actually be a good thing if it makes us depend more on Jesus. We always come out ahead when we depend on the Lord and turn to Him for the answers we need, because He's a lot wiser and "stronger" than we could ever be on our own.

That's the true strength of weakness—knowing that you need Him, that you need to turn to Him for the answers, and then doing that. You're weak in yourself in that you don't automatically feel like you know the answers or understand the situation or rely on your own ideas, but instead pray and ask Jesus. Your first reaction should always be to pray about things.

It's good "weakness" when, even if you know what to do or think you do, you still ask Jesus about it and follow His lead, which may differ from your initial thought or plan. It's good because then you're letting the Lord work through you and perform His will. You're letting Him have control. You're letting Him make the decisions and do things His way, and that's when He is able to turn your weakness into a strength.

You'll never go wrong by continually turning to Him in prayer. The more you ask Him about things, the more He can work through you.

The more you feel incapable in yourself, the more you realize that you don't know what to do and turn to Him for the answers, the better off you'll be.

There's nothing wrong with feeling incapable if it causes you to run to Jesus in prayer. That's not a weakness; that's really your greatest strength, because He'll always be there to lead and guide you. Those are good feelings to have because they keep you desperate and in need of Jesus, and that's exactly the way He wants you to be. He uses those feelings to keep you coming back to Him time after time, so that He can continue to bless you and work through you. He does it for your own good, as well as for the good of others who He knows will be affected by your choices and decisions. Just because you might *feel* incapable and insufficient doesn't mean that you really *are*, as long as you keep turning to Him.

The only problem you might have with feeling incapable and weak in yourself is if, after you've gone to Jesus and prayed and heard from Him, for whatever reason, you don't follow through and implement what He told you to do. Maybe you aren't sure that you got your signals from Him straight, or maybe you don't see how His answer could be true or possible, or maybe you think it's going to be too hard, so you put off doing it. But you need to have the faith that it's really Him speaking to you, that He knows what's good and right, and you simply need to obey and carry through with what He's shown you. You may not get it right every time, especially in the beginning, but the more you

TURN YOUR WEAKNESS

get in the habit of asking Him for His guidance, answers, and solutions, the easier it will become, the clearer you will hear Him speak, and the more often you *will* get it right.

If you lack the faith you need to get started, He can help you with that, too. If you don't see how you can do what He's asked you to do, ask Him to show you how. If you think it's going to be too hard, ask Him to help you take the first step. As you obey and take each little step for Him, He'll take bigger steps for you and help you to make progress. He won't fail to keep His word to you.

Ask Him about whatever specific situation you need help in. That's using your weakness and tapping in to Jesus' power. But after you've received some direction and guidance from Him, if you don't do anything with it, if you don't try to apply it and act upon it in some way, then you forfeit the benefit of being able to tap into His strength and you're left with your weakness. Your natural weaknesses will have become more of a hindrance than a help because you didn't accept the Lord's help after He offered it. We all do that sometimes. Nobody's perfect and He doesn't expect us to be, but most of us can do a lot better in this regard of asking Him about the problems we face and the decisions we make, big and small.

It's a three-step process. We have to remember to *ask*, first of all, and *believe* what He tells us and *grab on* to it, and then we have to follow through and *do* it.

Jesus told the apostle Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made

perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9), and He extends that same promise to you. When you feel weak, He will be strong in you. When you feel you can't do something you know He wants done, He will do it through you. When you don't know how He's going to accomplish His will through you, do what you can and He will do the rest. That's letting Jesus make a strength out of your weakness. ■



INTO STRENGTH

By David Brandt Berg



E-MAILING JESUS

By Keti Rosalieva

WHEN A CLOSE FRIEND MOVED AWAY, I FELT ALONE AND WORRIED ABOUT NOT HAVING ANYONE TO TALK TO, SEEK ADVICE FROM, AND CONFIDE IN. I very much missed having that special link with someone, but I soon discovered that I could have the same kind of personal connection with Jesus that I had enjoyed with my dear friend.

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

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

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

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

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

Keti Rosalieva is a member of the Family International in Romania.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?

By Chloe West

“WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES JESUS MAKE IN LIFE? WHY IS HE IMPORTANT? Isn't believing in God enough?” These were questions I asked myself in my college years. I had grown up with Christian teachings, but the question remained: “What is Jesus *for*, really?”

Then I met a group of young people who were excited about life and had lots of love. They didn't wait to check me out, but accepted me into their group whether I met their standards or not. I saw that they weren't stressed or troubled about innumerable things, as many of my fellow students were. They were happy, and told me it was because they had Jesus.

In time, I faced decisions that would affect the rest of my life. A friend from this group of Christian young people suggested that Jesus would know and want what was best for me. I thought about it. Somehow I felt that the boredom I'd experienced since reaching my goals in school and romance and other areas was probably because those goals were mine, not His. I sensed He had something more for me. I sincerely wanted to know why I was alive. What was *I* for?

I prayed and asked Him to show me what He had planned for my life, and while He was at it, to make Himself real to me. It was a simple prayer, and the result was astounding.

Whereas I had *believed* in love before, now I *felt* love that was almost overwhelming. Whereas I had known before that peace and tranquility were good, now I *had* true peace inside. Whereas I had known in theory that God could give me solutions to my problems, now I experienced Him doing little miracles to work out situations in my life. Whereas before I had known that the Bible was God's voice to me, I began to enjoy how alive, up-to-date, vibrant, and liberating His Words were.

I went from an intellectual acceptance of Jesus as the Son of God to a living relationship with Him. What intellect couldn't do, He did by coming into my life. His presence gave me love and strength and happiness. I learned the difference He can make. ■

Chloe West is a full-time volunteer with the Family International in the U.S.



If you haven't yet received Jesus as your Savior, you can right this minute by asking Him to come into your heart with His love, life, liberty, truth, peace, plenty, and happiness here, now, and forever. Simply pray:

Dear Jesus, thank You for giving Your life for me. Please forgive me for the wrong things I've done, come into my heart, give me Your free gift of eternal life, and teach me more about Your love. Amen.



HERE COMES THE

ANTICHRIST

PART 2 OF AN INTERVIEW WITH GOD ON THE ENDTIME

Interviewer: *What role will the Antichrist play in future world events?*

GOD: The Antichrist becomes the leader of the coming world government. By his initiative, several measures are introduced. One is a comprehensive settlement governing the Middle East, primarily centered on the relationship of Israel with its neighbors.

What kind of agreement will this be?

This pact will have a seven-year term with the intention of it being reviewed and renegotiated at the end of that period. The pact, among other things, will deal with the issue of Jerusalem, particularly with regards to the coexistence of and access to the shrines and places of worship of the major monotheistic religions, Christianity, Islam and Judaism. It will therefore earn the label “the Holy Covenant,” a name by which it is known in the Bible.

So You're saying that the Antichrist starts off doing this really great thing in order to gain favor with the world, even the Christians? He's certainly going to win a lot of public admiration if he actually succeeds where so many have tried and failed before. That's part of his plan.

But since these events are referred to in the Bible, shouldn't that set alarm bells ringing in the heads of Christians?

Many unfortunately don't know the Bible well enough to realize this. But for those who do, these events should and they will try to warn others. But by this time events will be rolling and the program of world government will have gained such momentum that protest will not be brooked.

You mentioned other measures instituted by this world leader. What are these?

As most astute observers will notice, even though a majority of people might disagree with a

government on many issues, as long as the economy remains good, they will usually put up with what they have. So the world government's number one priority will be the economy. Today, an enormous amount of capital flows electronically throughout the world. Nations are no longer alone in deciding their fates. These are now in the hands of international investors and speculators. Speculation on a nation's currency or a sudden withdrawal of investments can bring a nation to ruin in days. This tactic will be used to trigger a global economic collapse.

Won't people be ready to toss this Antichrist and his government out then?

To the contrary, people will demand that he intervene. To achieve recovery, the world government will bring to its ultimate conclusion the present digital trend in the world's economy.

Electronic commerce.

Not just electronic commerce, a total electronic economy! In the new economy it will not be efficient to mint coins or paper currency or use other paper securities. The swiftness with which transactions are made on an institutional level will need to be able to be utilized by the smallest entity in the economy, the individual. In order to do this, everyone will need a unique identity number by which his transactions will be logged. To assure that the number remains unique to that person and can be used by no one else, the number will be encoded in a microchip implant along with other vital statistics and data on the individual and then inserted under the skin on the right hand.

Like the implants now used in pets.

Yes, similar to those. This implant will go through many upgrades as further, more sinister uses are found for it. Eventually models will be produced to be inserted in the frontal lobe of the brain. You can only imagine what purposes that will be put to. This is the famous Mark of the Beast, the number 666 being associated with each individual's unique personal identity number.

This system will coexist for a while with current financial systems, even cash, but eventually all who wish to buy or sell or

transact any business whatsoever will need to convert to this Mark-of-the-Beast system.

Aside from Your obvious inference that this is bad, there seems to me to be lots of advantages to just such a system.

If there weren't obvious advantages, people would not buy into it. There are a lot of advantages as far as convenience and ease of purchasing and conducting other financial transactions, and that is why people will be willing to sacrifice their privacy. But that is the candy coating. The Mark will not just be for financial purposes, but it will be integrated into every aspect of life,

so it will be made increasingly difficult to survive without this official registration. Then this world government will curtail personal freedoms in the interest of the "overall well-being of the masses" and will demand complete compliance to its rules and dictates, and eventually even worship of its leader. ■

—To be continued in the next issue of *Activated*

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FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

MY PRESENCE

I'm just as real and present as someone you can see and touch—even more so, actually, because I am *always* with you. I'm right here by your side, and I'm ready, willing, and able to speak to you, to help you, to direct you, to comfort you, to love you, to heal you, and to provide for you. I have a lot to offer, but how fully I am able to bless you depends on how much room you make for Me.

I want you to bring Me into every area of your life. I want you to think about Me, to talk to Me, and to listen to Me, and to learn to follow where I lead. I don't ask this because I want to harness or control you, but because I love you. I want to provide for you

and protect you and shower you with love. I want to be with you and around you and in you all the time, like a lover wants to be with the one he loves.

When you include Me in whatever it is you're doing, it strengthens our relationship; it draws you closer to My Spirit, and we form stronger bonds of love and communication. The more we talk, the more you come to Me for companionship, the more you look to Me for answers to your questions and solutions to your problems, the more you bring Me into each area of your life, the more our love will grow and the greater satisfaction you will find in life, because all you do will be blessed with My presence.