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"An Impact In Faith"

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Dear Women of Perryville:

I would like to say thank you to everyone who sent sympathy cards and letters of condolences to me when my mother passed away last April. I can't tell you how much comfort they brought. Isn't it remarkable that although we haven't met physically, we have met in the Spirit? I find that the Spirit of God is so alive in each and every one of you. The letters we receive from you bless us so much. We are so happy to see what God is doing in your lives. Praise God! It is so important because He is your strength, protection and comforter, especially while you are incarcerated. Here is an excerpt from my "Women's Study Bible" by Nelson that I think defines your situation:

"Prison is Satan's domain over which he has ruled through the ages. Yet the Light dispels darkness. Those who suffer for the gospel's sake will be delivered."

Ps 146:7 says, "Who executes justice for the oppressed, Who gives food to the hungry. The Lord gives freedom to the prisoners."

Continue to support one another and ask the Lord to give you guidance in all things. You are living in a world where Satan and his cronies are everywhere. However, always remember one thing: Greater is He that lives in you than he that lives in the world. Stand as a confident child of God and utilize that confidence and boldness when you encounter difficulty. Remember that nothing is impossible for God. Understand that neither the devil nor a thousand demons is any kind of match for your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He defeated the devil the day He was crucified on Calvary.

Stand firm in confidence knowing that you are a daughter of the King. Remember that nothing can take that away from you – not even Satan. So, start to remember it and act like it. Continue to be faithful and stand strong. The inner peace you get will sustain you through this time and will continue to carry you forward when you are released and back on the outside. Do not let fear get the best of you. Remember that "Fear Not" is in the Bible 365 times – one for every day of the year.

In conclusion, I am going to say a prayer over you:

Dear Abba Father:

I am lifting up your beautiful daughters right now. Just as you tell us that you came with a Spirit of Adoption, I am coming to you as an intercessor for them. You are a wonderful and loving Father and I know these women are suffering and persecuted. Once they accepted you as their Savior, they were washed clean from all their past sins. Allow them to feel cleansed and beautiful inside. Do not allow the enemy to tear them down. Allow them to feel your love in a powerful way. Dear Father, I ask you to place a divine hedge of protection around all of your daughters and send the warrior angels to encamp around Perryville and all prisons everywhere your beautiful Christian daughters and sons live. Allow them to fight for these people. I ask this in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, who you said if we ask for anything in His name, it will be done." Amen!

God Bless each one of you.

Pastor Tina McGehee

Here are some verses that you can look at to reinforce the things I mentioned:

Romans 8:15	2 Timothy 1:7	Acts 22:16	John 15:3	Isaiah 30:15
Revelations 1:5	Apocalypse (Catholic version) 1:5		1 John 1:7	Ephesians 1:5-7

Current Ministry News

Bible Program

For those that are of need of a Bible we have Bibles that we will provide to you free of charge. Just contact us and we will send you one.

Bible Study Program

For those that are part our Prison Ministry we are in the process of putting together Bible Study Packages that we will mail to you free of charge. This has been a long time coming and we are so excited. Contact us if you would like one of these study packages.

Prayer Requests

If you have any prayer requests or simply want us to stand in agreement you in prayer, please feel free to contact us with your request. You can be assured that we pray over each and every request that we receive.

Newsletter & Website Content

We are still looking for new content for our newsletters and website from those that are part of our mailing list. We especially would like to receive testimonies, Godly inspired poems, and prose that we can put on our website and in our newsletters. Remember this ministry belongs to all God's saints.

Mixed Up Bible Verse

Place each word in its proper order the verse is from Matthew.

Are Christ living of Son the God the you the

Answer on page 5

Bible Trivia

1. What great leader of Israel considered himself “slow of tongue”?
2. Who healed a mute man by touching his tongue?
3. What New Testament man was made temporarily tongue-tied because he doubted the words of an angel?
4. Which parable of Jesus features a rich man in hell, begging for someone to cool his tongue with a drop of water?
5. At what place did the confusion of tongues occur?
6. Which New Testament letter addresses the issue of speaking in tongues?
7. Where were the apostles when “tongues of fire” rested upon them?
8. In which Gospel does Jesus prophesy that his followers will speak with “new tongues”?
9. At what Roman soldier’s home did the Holy Spirit lead the people to speak in tongues?
10. What Israelite leader selected his army by choosing men who drank water by lapping it up with their tongues like a dog?

Answers on page 5

Victorious Life In Perceiving The Unknown **By** **Pastor Ty McGehee**

God’s plan for our lives is that we walk in victory. Through Christ Jesus, we have become a new creation in God, born of God and adopted as His children. The Apostle John tells us that what is born of God overcomes the world and that this victory comes by our faith (1 John 5:4).

The writer of the book of Hebrews in the eleventh chapter tells us that faith is the substance, or realization, of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen. By faith, we believe in things that are not seen and count them as though they exist in the physical world.

This process seems simple enough, but yet there are so many Christians that are not experiencing a truly victorious life in Christ Jesus. This is largely the result of our western worldview. One may ask, “What does that have to do with my spiritual walk?” It

has everything to do with your spiritual walk. Worldviews in general are divided into three main areas: Religion, supernatural, and science. The use of supernatural here, is recognition of daily manifestation of spiritual activities, such as medicine men in primitive cultures. In these third world cultures seeing and participating in spiritual activity is a daily occurrence. Perceiving the unseen is a natural aspect of daily life in these cultures. This lends understanding of why miracles are so readily prominent in these cultures when they are evangelized, just look at the signs and wonders that have happened in Africa. In the western worldview, the middle category of supernatural is missing. Western culture places focus upon science or the physical world and bases its understanding on natural laws and patterns; because of this we have a distorted view of the supernatural or spiritual world. It is hard for most of us to understand the idea of a spiritual world more or less to perceive or peer into the invisible. But for us to account the unseen as real, or the impossible as being done, we must first see into the unseen or spiritual world.

Elisha taught this principle to his servant. In the book of II Kings, a story unfolds where the King of Syria was waging war against the King of Israel. God was revealing the King of Syria's plans to the Prophet Elisha and the king of Syria was upset by this and sent an army to bring Elisha to him. One morning Elisha's servant went out and saw that the city was surrounded by an army and became scared. Elisha told his servant, "Do not be afraid, for those that are with us are greater than those with them." Then Elisha prayed, his servant's eyes were opened, and he saw that the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire (2 Kings 6:8-17).

The key to victorious living is found in prayer. Prayer is a dynamic means by which we engage the spiritual world. The eyes of Elisha's servant were not opened until Elisha took action. The action of prayer, Elisha prayed, "God open his eyes." God opened the eyes of the servant. The servant was looking at this problem like many of us look at our problems today. We look with our physical eyes and not our spiritual eyes; we look from our own perspective and not from the perspective of God. We must begin to look from the perspective of God; we need to have our spiritual eyes opened. This is the reason why Elisha prayed, "God open his eyes," in other words, Elisha was praying God open his spiritual eyes and allow him to see into the invisible or spiritual realm.

When our spiritual eyes are opened we can peer into the invisible, we can look at things from God's perspective and not our own. Seeing into the invisible unlocks divine insights and revelations from God. In Jeremiah 33:3 God says call upon me and I will show great and mighty things. To better put this verse, God will reveal divine revelation or insight if we call upon him in prayer.

Prayer is our open channel to God. To live victoriously we must pray victoriously. Before we can pray victoriously our spiritual eyes must be open. Seeing into the invisible or spiritual world is the foundation to victorious praying. Without perceiving the supernatural our prayer life will not experience the full gamut of what God is offering to us in spiritual guidance.

Mixed Up Bible Verse Answer

You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. (Matthew 16:16)



Bible Trivia Answers

1. Moses (Exodus 4:10)
 2. Jesus (Mark 7:33)
 3. Zacharias the father of John the Baptist (Luke 1)
 4. The parable of the rich man and Lazarus the beggar (Luke 16:24)
 5. At Babel (Genesis 11)
 6. 1 Corinthians (Chapter 12 & 14)
 7. In Jerusalem at Pentecost (Acts 2)
 8. Mark (16:17)
 9. Cornelius (Acts 10)
 10. The judge Gideon (Judges 7:5)
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Are You Prepared to Meet God

My mother's death got me thinking: If I were to die tomorrow, would I be ready? I'm not speaking physically, but rather, spiritually.

For some people, death will come as a surprise. We know we are going to die but we don't know when we are going to die. On my mother's side of the family, we've had several sudden deaths.

One day that person was here and the next day they were gone. In the majority of those cases, the person died young – in their 30's or 40's. Were they prepared? I'd like to think they were. They knew Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior but what was in their hearts? I honestly, do not know.

Let's take a look at this spiritually. What spiritual legacy would you leave? We all know one thing is for certain: One day each of us is going to die. We are all going to stand before God and we will be judged according to our actions. It doesn't matter if you are the Queen of England or the homeless person living on the street – you are going to be judged according to your life. There is no escaping it.

We all know God is Spirit and we need to understand that we are also spirit. We are a spirit covered by flesh. The question is, where do we want our spirit to reside? There are only two places – heaven or hell. I want to quote Scott Harrup from "The Pentecostal Evangel": He says "We need to make each day count. We need to embrace each moment as God's gift and listen to His guiding Holy Spirit when making even the simplest plans. This isn't bondage; it's freedom to a degree nonbelievers cannot know." Isn't that powerful?

How will people remember you? Do you make each day count? When someone is coming to you for a hug, do you hug back? When a child is reaching out to you for love, are you loving them or are you turning your back? If your parent is older and needs help, are you helping them or turning your back? If a homeless person needs food, will you turn the other way? If a person needs God in their lives will you tell them about Him or will you resist the urge? Why not allow the Holy Spirit to guide your life instead of you guiding it? Listen to God. After all, the Holy Spirit is the Spirit of Truth. It is your communicator from God. Listen to it.

I read something from Hal Donaldson that made me evaluate my own life. It is the "10 things to do before you die". It is a spiritual list of things he wanted to do before he died and as I read them, I thought – these are the same things I want to do before I die. I'll list them and you can decide if they pertain to you. Perhaps they don't; perhaps you have a different list of things you want to do. Remember, we are speaking spiritual – not worldly. Try this exercise on your own and see what it brings you:

1. **Leave a legacy of love and faith.** How do you want your friends and family to remember you? As a loving, kind person or as a cranky, mean person?
2. **Mend broken fences.** Repair your broken relationships. You need reconciliation. Remember, with God's help, you will learn to love that person instead of hating them.
3. **Open your heart to strangers.** It can be scary to open your heart to a stranger. Maybe you'll see someone who needs help. Instead of turning the other cheek, go to them and offer help. Maybe it is that homeless person on the corner who needs a sandwich. Give it to them. Maybe it is that Spanish speaking family who needs help. You may not know how to speak Spanish but you can try to help by finding someone who does speak Spanish. Maybe they need food, water or just a smile.
4. **Bless your church and your pastor.** Your church and pastor need to know they are appreciated. It is hard to be a pastor; they are people just like you. They have a calling from God to help minister to others. They need your prayers and your notes of thanks. Pray for your church. Pray that the people of your church come together in a way that shows love – not backbiting or gossip.
5. **Embark on a new spiritual discipline.** Maybe you do read your Bible daily. Why don't you ask the Holy Spirit to show you what to do? Maybe you need to fast and pray a little more, maybe you need to pray for someone else at a certain time or perhaps you need to memorize a scripture a week? God will show you if you ask Him.
6. **Donate Your Time.** If you can donate your time by helping others, do it. It could be as volunteer at a church outreach for the poor, going to school to help teach others or else going to a food bank to help donate time. Volunteers are needed everywhere – just look around.

7. **Witness one-on-one.** People need to hear of God's love. Many times people are reaching out to you in their daily speech. A lot of people don't know God's love. Tell them how God helped you. Tell them how you feel inside. Don't hesitate, tell them.
8. **Record your life's mission statement.** "Write a letter in advance that explains your life's priorities, your dreams for your children and grandchildren, and your joy in being a part of the body of Christ. Your personal mission statement will become a lasting testimony when you leave for your eternal home."¹
9. **Establish a financial plan** – tithe, prepare for yourself and your family. It doesn't matter how little or how much you make. If you can only save five dollars a month, then do it. Five dollars is better than nothing. Make sure you leave a will. If you only have your grandmother's clock, then make sure you give it to someone who will appreciate it. Don't give it to the sister who is on drugs and will sell it to feed her drug habit.
10. **Prepare to meet God.** The most important thing to do is ask Jesus Christ into your life as your Lord and Savior. Your decision will be the most important thing you'll ever do. Always ask Jesus into your life on a daily basis. Tell Him to forgive you for your sins and to reveal anything you might have done that was wrong during the day. Ask Him into your life on a personal level. He wants more than anything to be intimate with you. Pray this with me: Lord Jesus, I am a sinner. I believe you are my Lord and Savior. I ask that you remove my sins and wash me clean. Please come into my life. If you prayed that prayer then we believe you are born again. Please read the following scriptures to understand: Romans 3:23, John 3:3; John 3:5-7; 3:16 and 1 John 1:9. Let Pastor Ty and I know that you made this decision. We will pray in agreement with you that your walk is strong.

I hope this exercise makes you think just like it did for me. Here are some scriptures to study as you do your exercise:

2 Kings 20:1	Proverbs 21:16	Leviticus 19:18	1 Corinthians 15:55
Hebrews 9:12	Romans 8:34	John 16:20-22	Mark 16:15

With Christ's love,

Pastor Tina McGehee

¹ Hal Donaldson "10 things to do before you die", Pentecostal Evangel, June 13, 2004.



FREEDOM

Just think, as we celebrate the 4th of July with our fellow countrymen, we Christians can live victorious and free because of Jesus Christ. Hallelujah! Say the following prayer with us if you believe and understand the victory that Jesus accomplished for us that day on Calvary:

Delivered & Set-Free ²

I do acknowledge, believe, receive and decree according to God's word, that I have been delivered, set-free, moved and transported from the power of darkness and translated into the kingdom of God's Son according to Colossians 1:13.

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son Colossians 1:13

I give thanks to the Father who has made me worthy to be a partaker of the inheritance of the saints in light.

Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. Colossians 1:12

For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. 1 John 3:8

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound. Isaiah 61:1

I further acknowledge and recognize that the scripture says I am delivered in Jesus Christ. If I was delivered, then I am delivered. Therefore, I decide to abide and rest in Christ and no longer try to get delivered. Instead, I assume a position of having been delivered. It was done therefore, it is done.

Thank you Lord that it is so, so be it!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised. Luke 4:18

² <http://www.virtualbibleschool.com/VFWC/confirmation1.asp>

Freedom In Christ Passages

“For freedom did Christ set us free, stand fast therefore and be not entangled again in a yoke of bondage.” Galatians 5:1

“For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus made me free from the law of sin and of death.” Romans 8:2

“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” John 8:32



Here is a testimony from a man who learned the truth:

The War Is Over

When a violent, rival gang leader experienced Christ, he made sure I knew about it.

By Danny D. as told to John Stahlman

I've been a member and leader of Chicago's Maniac Latin Disciples for 25 years. I can't say that it's been an empowering experience, though. Twenty-two of those years have been spent in and out of jails and prisons. That's half my life wasted behind bars because of my gangbangin', dope-dealin', violence, and general intimidation.

I guess I always knew in my heart that I was on a fast track to hell. But I never knew how to get off.

That was until three years ago.

The man I wanted dead

January 2001 wasn't only the beginning of a new millennium; it offered a new calendar to this aging and weary criminal. I had, with the help of a shrewd attorney, attempted one last legal maneuver to gain my freedom. But my plans backfired. Because of my reputation and the ability of my gang organization to corrupt the Cook County courts, my case was moved to suburban DuPage County, where my internal connections were useless.

On my first day in that jail, I discovered what fear really felt like. An unknown judge and some strangers on a jury had control of my future. Sure, I had been afraid before, but no one but I knew it. On the outside, I was always a *cool* dude—even if in my soul I was dancing on hot coals.

In the county jail, I was in a group with five other guys, all with lengthy records and no chance of catching a break. We were each in one-man cells. At lunchtime our food was brought to a small table just outside our cells, and the six of us were taken there to eat.

How could a book written before I was born know me so well? How could it describe me and yet be so positive?

Outside my cell at lunchtime, I started casing the surroundings for the sake of my own security. As I looked over the five other guys coming toward the table, my eyes locked on one guy, a Vice Lords chief. We had tried to kill each other more than once. For 13 years, he and I had been mortal enemies, doing all we could to get rid of each other for more turf. As I looked in my

adversary's eyes, instead of the expected rage and hatred, I saw peace and calm—maybe even contentment. I couldn't believe what I was seeing. There had to be a reason. I assumed he was high on weed to be that mellow in this place.

When he recognized me, he approached with an outstretched hand. I thought, *What's goin' on here? What's he gonna try?*

Responding with a hesitant handshake, I expected to feel the cold, sweaty palm of a guy struggling with fear. Instead, his hand was cool and dry, maybe even friendly.

I guess he sensed my bewilderment, because he said, "Hey man, the war is over. I'm no longer lost. I'm different." I yanked my hand back suspiciously, certain he was trying to catch me off guard.

I kept my distance for the next few days. I didn't want to let down my defenses until I figured out his game. I watched him across the deck through the glass wall of our cells and saw him drop to his knees three or four times a day. He would stay on his knees for 45 minutes or more at a time. *Maybe he's gone crazy, I thought. What is he doing on his knees for so long? There ain't that much prayin' going on in the whole world.*

Later that day, he was let out of his cell and he came to mine carrying a Bible. Again, the look of peace was all over his face. Opening his Bible and shoving it under my cell door, he said, "Read this."

It was Psalm 51. I read the whole thing slowly and carefully, to make sure I wasn't being set up somehow. Finding nothing of the sort, I shoved the Bible back under the door and said, "Hey, that's deep."

He closed the book and shoved it back to me. Confused, I asked him, "What kind of high are you on?"

He smiled at me and said, "Jesus." With that, he told me to keep the Bible.

I had been blindsided, just what I didn't want. "Thanks," I said and threw the Bible on my bunk.

I was focused on my court appearance, not Jesus. At court, because my legal motions were denied, my attorney had gotten a 60-day continuance.

Things weren't going well for me and I was angry—at the world, with the judge, with the district attorney, with my own lawyer.

Drawn to the Book

Returning from the courthouse to the jail one day, I took out my anger on the guards. For my little physical and emotional outburst, I was put on lockdown.

Locked in my cell for the next 29 days, I had never felt so lost and alone. I could have no visitors—no one to talk to, no one to lash out against. Bored, I looked at the cover of the book that the Vice Lords chief had left with me. "The Living Bible," read the words on the cover. I opened the pages to where my adversary had marked it—Psalm 51.

I read it again and again, hoping I would understand why a Vice Lords gang-banger wanted me to see that particular passage. After reading it several times, it dawned on me that the words could have been my own:

... For I recognize my shameful deeds—
they haunt me day and night.
Against you, and you alone,
have I sinned;
I have done what is evil in your sight.
You will be proved right in what you say,
and your judgment against me is just.

... Don't keep looking at my sins.
Remove the stain of my guilt. ...
Create in me a clean heart, O God.
Renew a right spirit within me.

How could a book written before I was born know me so well? How could it describe me and yet be so positive?

Intrigued by what I read, I started reading the whole Bible, beginning to end. Seventeen days into my lockdown, I realized I wasn't so angry anymore. That horrible feeling of being isolated had disappeared. The nights were not so lonely. Something strange was happening to me. I even reached the point where I got on my knees and talked to a Person I couldn't see.

Somehow, alone in a stark jail cell, I felt a presence. I felt safe and comfortable; feelings I had never experienced before. It amazed me that as the days passed, I worried less. All of this was so strange to me. Maybe I was a maniac.

If I were as I had been, I would have been ranting and raging. Instead, I began to think that maybe jail was God's plan for me.

Not by chance

Now, three years later, I have the same peace I found in the DuPage County jail. I'm still trying to grasp God's will for my life, but my hold on it isn't yet solid. Throughout my transformation, I have come to believe that none of my experiences in the DuPage County jail was a result of chance. A gang chief turned Christian, a Bible, a particular psalm, and a 29-day lockdown had set the stage.

After I lost my case in court and was sent to the state correctional center, I finally quit running from God and myself. For the first time, I didn't like my past and all the wrongs I had done. I wanted something different, and I got it. I asked Jesus to forgive me ... and He did.

Today, I want to be God's man, not the main man. I have a long way to go, but I know I'm on the right road, going in the right direction.

John Stahlman is a writer living in Springfield, Illinois.

***Editor's Note:** Danny D. (who asked that his full name not be used) is still serving time in an Illinois state penitentiary, but instead of leading a gang, he is taking Bible correspondence courses, attending chapel activities, and praying. Says writer John Stahlman, who interviewed Danny for this article, "I have seen with my own eyes how Danny's attitude of violence has become an attitude of peace. He's now a new man, God's man."*

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