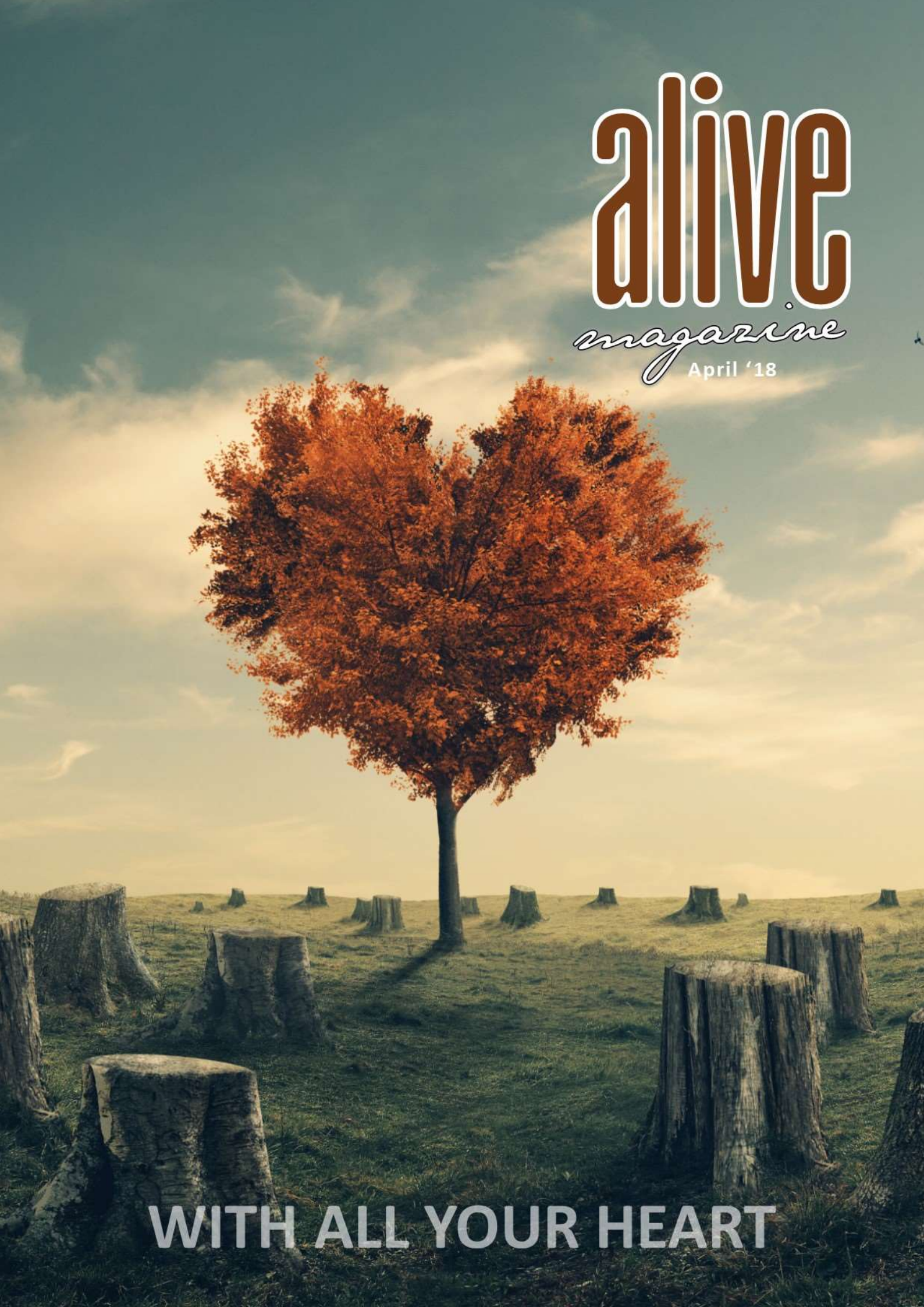

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LEARNING TO WAIT

BY: Andrew Roebert

Waiting is something very strange in modern day life. The concept of waiting in a world of instant everything and microwaves is unheard of. Waiting on or for God has become equally as scarce. In most cases our schedules do not allow for it. Times of waiting and meditation are stolen from us because of the types of lives we live. But we need to learn to wait and have times of waiting on God He wants to make Himself real to us.

DAVID LEARNED TO WAIT ON GOD

David is a great example to us. He encourages us in this regard.

Psalm 62:1 Truly my soul silently waits for God (NKJV)

Psalm 62:1 I stand silently before the Lord, waiting for him (Living)

Waiting on God is so foreign to our modern lifestyles and yet we need it so much. David had learnt to wait for God.

WHY SHOULD WE WAIT ON GOD?

A. SO THAT WE CAN GET TO KNOW HIM

It is only as we begin to quieten ourselves and learn to wait that we will get to know God. We will never get to know Him just as part of a rushed program.

Psalm 46:10 Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

Psalm 46:10 Stand silent! Know that I am God!

There is something that happens when we are still. God can make Himself real to us. We need to provide for this time so that we can get to know God.

B. BECAUSE OUR SALVATION COMES FROM HIM

Psalm 62:1 Truly my soul silently waits for God; From Him comes my salvation.

I don't think that we will ever realise how much God really wants to do for us. But this word SALVATION gives us a good idea.

The word salvation implies at least 4 things:
1. Deliverance
2. Safety
3. Preservation
4. Healing
All of this that God wants to give us flows to us as we learn to wait on the Lord That is a good enough reason!

C. HE IS OUR ROCK AND SALVATION

Another good reason.

Psalm 62:2 Yes, he alone is my Rock, my rescuer, defense and fortress. Why then should I be tense with fear when troubles come?

Insecurity and instability is the order of the day in the world today. The only thing that we as humans can be sure of is that one day we will die. There is only one source of ultimate security. The more time we spend waiting on God the more we will experience the ultimate security Many of us need more of this. God wants us to come and sit in His presence, experience all He has for us and enjoy the security that only He can give

D. HE IS MY DEFENSE AND I WILL NOT BE MOVED

Another good reason!

Psalm 62:2 He is my defense; I shall not be greatly moved.

God is our defense. What a great defender If this is a reality because we have learned to wait on Him, THEN we will not be moved. We will be able to stand secure.

WAITING UNDER DIFFICULT CIRCUMSTANCES

David was going through very difficult circumstances. His life was under threat. There was an entire army against him. He was in exile and on the run. But in all of this he learned to wait. Do you ever feel that your problems or your enemies just won't let up? If we have learnt to wait on God, then God can take care of those situations. As David learned to wait on God, God began to deal with his situation

DAVID KNEW WHAT THE ONLY KIND OF LIFE WAS, THAT WAS WORTH LIVING

He had discovered the secret. That the only life worth living was the life of waiting on God. And so, because of this he instructs his soul (his inner most being) to wait on God.

Psalm 62:5 My soul, wait silently for God alone, for my expectation is from Him.

He instructs his soul to place full expectation in God. And he knows that his security and stability is found in God alone.

Psalm 62:6-7 Yes, he alone is my Rock, my rescuer, defense, and fortress—why then should I be tense with fear when troubles come? My protection and success come from God alone. He is my refuge, a Rock where no enemy can reach me.

DAVID ENCOURAGES US TO TRUST GOD

Psalm 62:8 O my people,
trust him all the time.
Trust Him all the time!

When the news on the TV is bad – TRUST HIM. When the economy is rough – TRUST HIM. When there is a breakdown in your family – TRUST HIM. When sickness strikes – TRUST HIM. TRUST HIM ALL THE TIME

DAVID ENCOURAGES US TO SPEAK TO GOD

Psalm 62:8 Pour out
your longings before him,
for he can help!

If there is something you feel like speaking about – take it to the Lord. After placing your concern or request before the Lord, never leave His presence without waiting on Him, so that He can have the opportunity of speaking into the situation. Take advantage of the fact that we can go to God with all our problems. Why should we do this? Because He can help. Think about that!

CONCLUSION

There is only one life worth living. It is the live lived in dependence on the Lord. This life can only become a reality when we learn to wait on the Lord. Why don't you give it a try! I believe that God will not disappoint us. Let's learn to wait on God!

What does it mean that Jesus is Lord?

GotQuestions.org

Generally speaking, a lord is someone with authority, control, or power over others; to say that someone is "lord" is to consider that person a master or ruler of some kind. In Jesus' day the word lord was often used as a title of respect toward earthly authorities; when the leper called Jesus "Lord" in Matthew 8:2, he was showing Jesus respect as a healer and teacher (see also Matthew 8:25 and 15:25).

Matthew 8:2-3
A man with leprosy came and knelt before him and said, "Lord, if you are willing, you can make me clean." Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. "I am willing," he said. "Be clean!" Immediately he was cleansed of his leprosy.

Matthew 15:25
The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said.

However, after the resurrection, the title "Lord," as applied to Jesus, became much more than a title of honour or respect. Saying, "Jesus is Lord," became a way of declaring Jesus' deity. It began with Thomas' exclamation when Jesus appeared to the disciples after His resurrection:

John 20:28
Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

From then on, the apostles' message was that Jesus is Lord, meaning "Jesus is God." Peter's sermon on the Day of Pentecost contained that theme:

Acts 2:36
Therefore let all Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Messiah."

Later, in Cornelius's house, Peter declared that Jesus is "Lord of all" (Acts 10:36). Note how in Romans 10:9 Jesus' lordship is linked to His resurrection:

Romans 10:9
If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

The statement "Jesus is Lord" means that Jesus is God. Jesus has "all authority in heaven and on earth" (Matthew 28:18). He is Lord of the Sabbath (Luke 6:5). He is "our only Sovereign and Lord" (Jude 1:4). He is, in fact, the Lord of lords (Revelation 17:14).

Jesus referred to Himself as "Lord" many times (e.g., Luke 19:31; John 13:13). And when we compare the Old Testament with the New, we find several times when the "LORD" (Yahweh) of the Hebrew Bible is equated with the "Lord Jesus" by the apostles. For example:

Psalm 34:8

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him.

That passage is alluded to in 1 Peter 2:3, except there Jesus is the "Lord" who is good. Isaiah 8:13 says that "the LORD Almighty is the one you are to regard as holy"; in 1 Peter 3:15 we are commanded, "In your hearts honour Christ the Lord as holy" (ESV).

Amazingly, the Lord Jesus left His exalted position in heaven and came to earth to save us. In His Incarnation, He showed us what true meekness looks like.

Matthew 11:29
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.

Just before His arrest, Jesus used His power and authority to teach us humility: "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet" (John 13:14). The last will be first, according to our Lord (Matthew 19:30).

In saying, "Jesus is Lord," we commit ourselves to obey Him.

Luke 6:46

"Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord,' and do not do what I say?

An acknowledgement of Jesus' lordship is logically accompanied by a submission to Jesus' authority. If Jesus is Lord, then He owns us; He has the right to tell us what to do.

A person who says, "Jesus is Lord," with a full understanding of what that means (Jesus is God and has supreme authority over all things) has been divinely enlightened:

Therefore I want you to know that no one who is speaking by the Spirit of God says, "Jesus be cursed," and no one can say, "Jesus is Lord," except by the Holy Spirit 1 Corinthians 12:3

Faith in the Lord Jesus is required for salvation (Acts 16:31).

Jesus is Lord. It's the truth, whether or not people acknowledge the fact. He is more than the Messiah, more than the Saviour; He is the Lord of all. Someday, all will submit to that truth:

Philippians 2:9-11
Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.



HELP, GOD I NEED YOU

By: Andrew Roebert

God wants to help us. To call on God for help is a legitimate thing to do. I have often asked God for help. The Bible has many examples of people who called on God for help. Perhaps you have been calling on God for help, or perhaps you need to call on God for your situation. God wants to come through for us. Call and keep on calling on God for help.

ASKING FOR HELP IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO

We were not designed to operate independently of God. We were created to know God and His help in our lives. David, who wrote the Psalms, was a man mightily used by God and yet he is the one who asked for God's help more than others. We see him asking for help, calling for help and in one case screaming for help. So today if you need help, ASK GOD.

Psalm 12:1 Help, LORD Psalm 18:6 In my distress I screamed to the Lord for his help. And he heard me from heaven; my cry reached his ears.

GOD IS FATHER

God wants to help us like a father would help is child. A good father wants the best for his child. A good father never wants his child to suffer unnecessarily. The Lord's Prayer says: OUR FATHER. We can approach God as a father and ask Him to help us.

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting comfort and hope, which we don't deserve, comfort your hearts with all comfort, and help you in every good thing you say and do.

God our father loves us and wants to help us.

GOD IS OUR SOURCE OF HELP

We must look to God for our help.

Psalm 16:2 "You are my Lord; I have no other help but yours."

Where are you looking for help today? Be careful where you go for help. Don't look in the wrong places for help. Go to Someone Who can help you. Go to the Lord.

Psalm 25:15 My eyes are ever looking to the Lord for help, for he alone can rescue me.

Let God be your only source of help.

DON'T BE IMPATIENT

Human nature gets so impatient. We want everything immediately and in the form that we expect it to be. Don't get discouraged. Don't give up on God.

Psalm 27:14 Don't be impatient. Wait for the Lord, and he will come and save you! Be brave, stouthearted, and courageous. Yes, wait and he will help you.

Psalm 40:1 I waited patiently for God to help me; then he listened and heard my cry.

Lets be patient, as we trust God.

Psalm 42:5 Why then be downcast? Why be discouraged and sad? Hope in God! I shall yet praise him again. Yes, I shall again praise him for his help.

GOD'S WAYS ARE DIFFERENT

Many times we want God to come through for us in a very specific way. We want a particular response. But we don't have Gods perspective. He sees things in a different light. He has a thousand creative ways of solving a problem that we only see one solution to.

Isaiah 55:8-9 This plan of mine is not what you would work out, neither are my thoughts the same as yours! For just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than yours, and my thoughts than yours.

Expect God to come through for you in any way possible.

THE PROMISE

Here are some special promises to strengthen your faith:

Psalm 34:17 Yes, the Lord hears the good man when he calls to him for help and saves him out of all his troubles.



Promise number 1: THE LORD HEARS
Promise number 2: THE LORD HEARS WHEN WE CALL
Promise number 3: THE LORD HEARS WHEN WE CALL FOR HELP
Promise number 4: THE LORD SAVES US OUT OF ALL OUR TROUBLES

These are some great promises. I am believing God, how about you?

WHAT KIND OF HELP DOES GOD WANT TO GIVE US?

He wants to give us assistance. He wants to give us support. He wants to change things for the better. Is there an area in your life that needs to experience change for the better? God wants to give us what will benefit and assist us. He wants to help to make things that are unbearable more bearable. Whatever type of help you need, God is capable of doing. Look to HIM.

TRUSTING GOD

What does it mean to be trusting God? It means we place our confidence in Him. It means we commit or place something in His care or keeping. It also means that we rely on Him.

Psalm 37:5 Commit everything you do to the Lord. Trust him to help you do it, and he will.

Keep on trusting God. Never give up. Trust and keep on trusting. There is a promise in that verse: 'Trust him to help you do it, and he will.' Hold on to this hope.

Philippians 4:13 I can do everything God asks me to with the help of Christ who gives me the strength and power

DELAYING CONFRONTATIONS IN MARRIAGE

Cindy and Steve Wright - MarriageMissions.com

Delaying confrontations with your spouse can sometimes cause problems. Waiting and piling one problem on top of another can be problematic. But on the other hand, sometimes it's a good thing—particularly when it's a time to H.A.L.T. That would be a time when either of you is Hungry, Angry, or Tired. Your spouse may be more receptive to hearing what you have to say if you avoid those times. But what if YOU are the one who needs to delay the confrontation? Let's face it:

"There are times in marriage when we just can't face a confrontation. Too much other bad stuff has happened that day; or we are feeling stripped of all our diplomatic powers; or we are feeling too fragile for criticism. It's OK in such cases to say, 'I can't talk about this now. I'm too angry/hurt/distracted. Let's talk after dinner/after I get back from my run/tomorrow morning.' You have an obligation to hear about problems, but you have the right to hear them on your own terms.

"If the timing is off, it's best to admit that you can't listen very well right now, but that you'd like to talk at a later time. If you use this as an avoidance strategy, your partner will rightly sense it and call you on it. But if you are judicious and honest in your response, your spouse may honor your needs because he [she] sees that you really want to resolve the problem, not just argue about it."

(Toni Sciarra Poynter, from the book, "From This Day Forward: Inspirations for Couples")

DELAYING CONFRONTATIONS

We bring this up because we've sure been there ourselves, as a married couple. When our sons were younger it was especially a problem for us. It seems that regularly there would be something we needed to "talk" about and work through. I confess that I wasn't always sensitive to approaching Steve at the best time. I didn't know about the H.A.L.T. method of delaying confrontations. Oh how I wish I had known about it!

And Steve didn't know, when he felt the need, to ask for a delay until he was in a better emotional place to work through the problem that was facing us. In truthfulness, I may not have gone along with it anyway. I was pretty immature in the way I handled upsetting issues. I/we didn't know that timing our confrontations could have helped us to work issues through in healthier ways.

Fortunately, I/we have learned a few things through the years. Much of it was after we approached matters in dysfunctional ways. Some of what we've learned has been through our studying and then applying healthy marital skills. We've also had to unlearn and purposefully push ourselves away from "stinking thinking" and doing what we shouldn't.

DELAYING CONFRONTATIONS WHEN IT'S HEALTHIER

It's important to speak AND listen to each other so we build relationship bridges. When we marry we enter into a marriage partnership. Partners stretch themselves to speak the "truth in love." That's what we're told to do in the Bible when we speak.

And on the reverse side, if we aren't ready to listen to the issues that our spouse wants to "discuss" with us then we need to say so. But we should be polite about it. Politely tell our spouse if we're too tired, impatient, or too stressed out to talk about a confronting issue.

However, if we ask for a delay in talking a problem through, we need to also be proactive in making ourselves available to talk later. Don't ask for a delay and then let it drop. If it's important to our spouse, we should make it our priority, as well. Be a proactive partner with your spouse in making your life work together.

As we're told in God's word:

> *"Don't have anything to do with foolish and stupid arguments, because you know they produce quarrels. And the Lord's servant must not quarrel. Instead, he must be kind to everyone, able to teach, not resentful. Those who oppose him he must gently instruct, in the hope that God will grant them repentance leading them to a knowledge of the truth*



and that they will come to their senses and escape from the trap of the devil, who has taken them captive to do his will."
(2 Timothy 2:23-26)

"Let us therefore make every effort to do what leads to peace and to mutual edification."
(Romans 14:19)

As you do so, may God bless your marriage all the more

MOTHERS – YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

By: Andrew W Roebert

You and I have the wonderful privilege to make a difference in the world in which we live. You can make a difference! A life only becomes effective when it touches the life of another. In the New Testament we see a story of a young man by the name of Timothy. Timothy was Paul's spiritual son and later became the Bishop of Ephesus. There were two women who played a role in this young man's life. It was his mother, Eunice and his grandmother Lois. We don't know much about these ladies, but we know that they played a very important role. We know that they were Jewish believers. We do not know much about Timothy's father besides for the fact that he was Greek and a gentile. But, Eunice, his mother had a great influence on the upbringing of Timothy as a Christian. Both these ladies played a significant role in His life and as a result he was used by God and for His purpose. This story is an example to us of how we can touch the lives of others and make a difference. These two ladies were just ordinary people, but their influence was something we still celebrate today.

2 Timothy 1:5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

YOU CAN MAKE AN ETERNAL DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OTHERS!

You can have an influence in the lives of those around you. In fact, it is part of your calling and destiny as Christians that we would be like salt and light. Salt brings flavour.

Matthew 5:13 You are the salt of the earth.

Matthew 5:13 "You are the world's seasoning, to make it tolerable. If you lose your flavour, what will happen to the world?

Light brings hope.

Matthew 5:14 You are the light of the world.

Matthew 5:14-16 You are the world's light—a city on a hill, glowing in the night for all to see. Don't hide your light! Let it shine for all; let your good deeds glow for all to see, so that they will praise your heavenly Father.

There are so many ways in which we can have an influence in the lives of others. This influence can have eternal ramifications. Through what we say and do and how we conduct our lives, we can so influence people's lives that they too may choose to follow after God. You have a unique opportunity to do just this. It has been said the average person influences 10,000 people in their lifetime. As such your life is powerful and the question is what influence are you having. Just because you are here, you have the potential of making a difference. Use this potential to make an eternal difference in the lives of others and in particular those around you.

PASS THE FAITH ALONG!

2 Timothy 1:5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

Notice that this was a living faith that lived first in the grandmother Lois. However it did not stop there. Lois had successfully passed this living faith on to her daughter and they had successfully passed it on to the child Timothy. This made Timothy different to the point where the Apostle Paul can say that He is persuaded that the same faith lives in Timothy. What a great commendation! Eunice, Timothy's Jewish Christian mother and his grandmother Lois must have been Timothy's significant teachers of Christian faith and of the Scriptures. As Jewish women Eunice and her mother Lois would have known the Old Testament Scriptures and passed it one to Timothy. They must have done the same with their Christian faith. The influence and the spiritual instruction of his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice on Timothy was of such a nature that Paul could make the connection and he could appreciate and point to Lois and Eunice as models of faith for Timothy. Can people, your children, point to you as a model of faith?

LIVE A LIFE OF GENUINE FAITH AND DEVELOP IT IN THOSE AROUND YOU!

Endeavour to develop and deep, real and meaningful faith in your family.

2 Timothy 1:5 I am reminded of your sincere faith……

Other translations use the words 'genuine faith'. It was what other translations call 'unfeigned faith'.The emphasis here in the original Greek is that their faith was without hypocrisy. It describes sincere behavior free from hidden agendas (selfish motives). I would dare to say that both the mother and the grandmother exhibited a real and a consistent faith. These ladies were genuine.

I would venture to say that the way they lived was the same at home as it was in public. They did not blow hot and cold. They were consistent – without hypocrisy! Our lives should be the same. The way we live our lives should be the same. Paul tells us that these ladies were believers. This was a term used to describe people who believed in Jesus Christ.

Acts 16:1 Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek.

If we are going to touch the lives of others we must know in whom we believe. There should be no hesitation or doubt. Their faith was genuine because they believed in Jesus and could not be shaken. Even in difficult situations and in spite of opposition their faith remained true. A genuine abiding faith is something contagious. Keep on burning for God and the warmth will change even the coldest environment.

START EARLY

2 Timothy 3:14-15 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

From this scripture reference we can see that the influence of these two ladies began when Timothy was very young. It speaks about the fact that from infancy he knew the scriptures. Perhaps they had instilled it in him even during pregnancy. Sometimes we think we will wait to influence people for the right time or the perfect moment. Don't waste one moment of time, start early and influence others. The truth is that others are learning from our lives from the moment we come into contact with them. When it comes to making a difference in the lives of others, never say, "Come back at a more convenient season". "Behold, now is the accepted time!" Paul goes on and reminds Timothy why he can have confidence in the influence he received: 'because you know those from whom you learned it' These women's lives were reason enough to believe in the message they had imparted. If our lives are a living testimony, then others will be able to have confidence also.

HOLD ON TO GOD'S WORD

Finally Paul gives Timothy some sound advice. He encourages him to hold onto what he was taught and what he has learnt in particular to God's words. The Word of God has benefit for everyone, through-out the length of life.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

He reminds him about the 'Holy Scriptures' and then goes on to remind Timothy that all Scripture is God-breathed. He was reminding him that God's word could be depended on, that it was reliable and trustworthy. Never let it said from your mouth that; 'it doesn't work for me!' Rather let those around you know that you have full and complete confidence in God even if things don't look ideal at that moment. As a result of these two ladies and their influence on this young man's life, his life was something that people noticed and as a result he could speak to them with authority and influence them in turn. It opened the door for him to be in influence.

Acts 16:1-2 Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him.

Conclusion:

'A life is not significant except in the impact it has on other lives.' Jackie Robinson. We must choose to live the kind of life that impact others. Look for somebody you can mentor. Be a person of impact. Go out of your way to volunteer and get involved and take responsibility for helping others. Teach where you can and be an authentic role model. Remember your life is a book that others are reading. Make your life count by making a difference.

LET GOD BE YOUR GOD THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFETIME

BY Andrew Roebert

> *Isaiah 46:4 I will be your God throughout your lifetime—until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you.*

I thought that this scripture was relevant today and relevant to us all.

GOD WANTS TO BE YOUR GOD

Sometimes we may think that God may be God to others but its not for you. The truth is that God wants to be your God. God wants to be your personal God. God does not want to be the God of your parents. God does not want to be the God of your Grand-parents. God does not want to be the God of someone you know. God does not want to be the God of the pastor/minister. He (God) wants to be your God! It is a personal and deliberate decision. The question remains: WILL YOU ALLOW GOD TO BE YOUR GOD?

GOD WANTS TO BE YOUR GOD THROUGHOUT YOUR LIFETIME

God does not want to be your God seasonally or on and off. God wants to be your God throughout the course of your life. God wants to walk through life with us. He is not a 'fair weather' friend. Here when times are good and gone when times are bad. God wants to see you through this difficult time and then also see you through each and every day of life. God wants to be your God as a child. God wants to be your God as a young person. God wants to be your God through the course of life. God wants to be your God through old age. The Bible tells us that God made us and He wants to care for us and carry us.

GOD WANTS TO BE YOUR GOD IN THE GOOD TIMES AND THE BAD

Life is not easy. Life seems to bring with it a fair share of good times and difficult times. But is all of this, God still wants to be your God. Sometimes when things are going well we may feel as through we do not need God – God still wants to be our God. Sometimes when things go wrong we may feel as though we really need God – He still wants to be our God.

The secret is that we must make God, God in our lives through the good times and the bad times. He wants to carry us through and bring us to the other side.. Bad things do happen and they also happen to good people, but God wants to be God in all the seasons of our lives.

GOD WANTS TO BE YOUR GOD SO THAT HE CAN CARRY YOU

> *Isaiah 46:4 I will be your God throughout your lifetime—until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you.*

As children we loved the park. The park was close to us and it had an old stone bridge over a small stream. I loved to pick up dry leaves or small sticks and stand on the one side of the bridge and drop one or two and run to the other side of the bridge and watch the leaves/stick appear as they were carried along by the water. It was usually a bumpy ride for the leaves but they would be carried along by the water and the current, past rocks and pools and I would watch as they disappeared into the distance. It is a picture to me of how God wants to carry us along. If we allow God He will come and carry us through the process of life.



LET GOD BE YOUR GOD AND LET HIM CARRY YOU

God will not simply come and invade our lives and come and do this. God will not by default play this role. We have to give Him room in our hearts and in our lives so that He can become our God. The question we all have to ask ourselves is if we will give God space and room in our lives? If you have never done this I want to encourage you to consider this and ask God to become your God.

REACHING DOWN TO US

By: Andrew W Roebert

Oftentimes we may feel that we have to work ourselves up to God. In most religions there is the concept of earning what their god has for them. So people end up doing all sorts of things to get favour from God. This affects the way we think and act. The truth is that God came down to mankind and reached mankind at his point of need. God came down to our level. Today, nothing has changed. God still wants to meet you where you are.

WHERE YOU ARE

Where are you today? Perhaps today you find yourself far from God. Perhaps you have gotten involved with things that you should never have touched. Perhaps you have become cold and hard on the inside. Perhaps life has just become too complicated for you. The wonder is that God wants to come and meet you where you are.

Romans 5:6 When we were utterly helpless, with no way of escape, Christ came at just the right time and died for us.

God wants to come at just the right time and meet us where we are and help us with what we need.

THE UNLIKELY

Perhaps because of where you are today you may feel unlikely or an unlikely candidate to receive what God has for you. The truth of the matter is that God uses the unlikely.

1 Corinthians 1:27-28 But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are.

You are not disqualified from receiving God's love and help. You may feel weak and foolish or even despised and rejected, but not even that will disqualify you from what God has for you. God is reaching to each one of us with His love and kindness.

GOD KNOWS

One of the greatest joys is to know that God knows. We all live behind our masks and project to others what we want them to see. As a result oftentimes an element of our lives can be a lie. But nothing is hidden from God. This is a wonderful joy. To know that God knows our every aspect of our lives and loves us just the same. God knows our fears and worries. God knows about our sense of inadequacy. God knows our attitudes and our sin and in all that He still wants to reach out to you and me with His love. Because God knows everything about us and still loves us, we can appreciate His love.

GOD CAME DOWN TO US

Right from the start God came down to mankind. We see the greatest example of this when Jesus came to the earth to reach humanity.

John 3:16-17 For God loved the world so much that he gave his only Son so that anyone who believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. God did not send his Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it.

There is a song we sing with the following words: 'You came from heaven to earth, to show the way'. Jesus is an example of how God wants to reach down to us and meet us at our level with a plan to change our lives and situations. Let Him into your heart and life today.

BENDING DOWN

Psalm 116:1-2 I love the Lord because he hears my prayers and answers them. Because he bends down and listens, I will pray as long as I breathe!

I love the picture this scripture paints. I just see how God wants to make an effort to meet us at our level and come through for us. I have a little daughter and oftentimes I have to bend down and listen to her little stories. This usually happens when I get home from a long day and I am usually tired. As I bend down to listen to her it is a deliberate action on my part to give her time and to listen. I am there for her. It is the same with God. He is not too busy. He wants to make time for you and I.

THE STORY OF PETER

The Bible tells us a story about how Peter the Apostle walked on the water to Jesus. It is a wonderful story with many lessons but it also shows us God's character. The story happens as some of the followers of Jesus are traveling in a boat.

Matthew 14:25-31 About four o'clock in the morning Jesus came to them, walking on the water! They screamed in terror, for they thought he was a ghost. But Jesus immediately spoke to them, reassuring them. "Don't be afraid!" he said. Then Peter called to him: "Sir, if it is really you, tell me to come over to you, walking on the water." "All right," the Lord said, "come along!" So Peter went over the side of the boat and walked on the water toward Jesus. But when he looked around at the high waves, he was terrified and began to sink. "Save me, Lord!" he shouted. Instantly Jesus reached out his hand and rescued him.

I love the closing sentence: 'Instantly Jesus reached out his hand and rescued him.' Perhaps today you may feel like you are sinking. God is ready and willing to reach down to us and help us!

GOD IS INTERESTED

The truth of that matter is that God is interested in your life. God is interested in each person. God is interested in the powerful and rich. God is interested in the average and everyday people. So no matter what category you may fall into God is interested in you. Because of this God wants to love, care and give.

Jeremiah 31:3 I have loved you, O my people, with an everlasting love; with loving-kindness I have drawn you to me.

You are not reading this by mistake. This is a divine moment because God is reaching down to you and He wants to make His love for you a reality. Just take a moment and respond. You have nothing to fear, God knows everything!

with all your heart

By: Andrew Roebert

Our hearts are a very important element in our lives. I am not talking about our physical hearts. I am talking about one's innermost character, feelings, or inclinations. The central or innermost part. The center of our being. This is the part that God is interested in. He is watching our hearts. The Bible gives clear indication of the role our hearts have to play.

LOVING GOD WITH ALL OUR HEARTS

God is looking for this. We need to love God with a love that is a passion.

> *Luke 10:27 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind.'*

How do you love with all your heart? Certainly not just on a Sunday. Our entire lives and our entire beings need to love God totally. God should not just be one of our passions. He needs to be the passion of our lives and everything else will come into priority. Have you given God first place in your heart?

SERVING GOD WITH ALL OUR HEARTS

Joshua 22:5 'But be very careful to keep the commandments and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God… and to serve Him with all your heart and with all you soul.'

God wants us to serve Him with all our hearts. God is not into half-hearted commitment. God is looking for total involvement and total commitment. He needs to have first place in our lives: number one on the priority list. God needs to become a consuming passion. We need to love and serve God with all our hearts.

WITH ALL YOUR HEART

What does this mean? If we say that we must do something with all our hearts, what are we speaking about? It means that we give everything that we have got. God has got our full attention. He becomes the focus of our lives. From the seat or center of our secret thoughts and emotions we make our focal point God. God becomes our hub. Everything else moves around that main thing.

DOING WHAT WE DO WITH ALL OUR HEARTS

> *Colossians 3:23 'Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for me.'*

This puts a very different light on things. We are encouraged to do what we have to do with all our hearts. This speaks about our day-to-day lives. We can do what we do as unto the Lord. If our everyday lives can be as though we were working for God, then every aspect of our lives can become an example of our love for God. This can make even the most mundane task something special. If we can apply this too our lives then we can apply it to other areas of our lives.

LOVING GOD IS A COMMAND

Joshua 22:5 'But be very careful to keep the commandments and the law that Moses the servant of the Lord gave you: to love the Lord your God, to walk in His ways, to obey his commands, to hold fast to Him, and to serve Him with all your heart and with all you soul.'

How do you follow a command? By making the decision. Our love for God needs to be total, involving our whole being.

> *Deuteronomy 6:5 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.'*

This affects how we should seek Him. This affects how we should fear Him. This affects how we should obey Him. This affects how we should love and serve Him. Let us make this decision that we are going to love God.

WHAT IS IN OUR HEARTS IS EASY TO SEE

Luke 6:45 'The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil that is stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of the heart his mouth speaks.'

What comes out of our mouths is a reflection of what is in our hearts. If I really love God, then you will hear about it. It will emerge from the way I speak. What is stored up in your heart, today?

Luke 12:34 'Where your treasure is there will your heart be also.'

If we are going to love God we need pure hearts.

PRAISING GOD WITH ALL OUR HEARTS

This is something else we must do with all our hearts.

Psalm 9:1 'I will praise you, O Lord, with all me heart.'

Praise is a very important part of our lives.

Psalm 111:1 'I will extol the Lord with all my heart.'

Definition of extol: To praise highly or to glorify. If you are battling in some area, then it is time to start praising God. Praise is one of the tools to overcoming. We are called to praise God with all our hearts.

BROKEN HEARTS

Today, your heart may be broken. You may say that if I knew the condition of your heart, I would not be asking this 'total heart commitment' from you. But God is the master in handling the broken hearts.

Psalm 51:17 'A broken and a contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.'

God wants to help us. He wants to come along side and walk us through.

Psalm 86:11 Teach me your way, O Lord, and I will walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart, that I may fear your name.'

God is looking for undivided hearts.

THE BLESSING

There is a blessing for those who will seek God with all their hearts:

Psalm 119:2 'Blessed are those who seek Him with all their hearts.'

Let us make the right decision. Let God into your heart.

Psalm 139:23 'Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.'

God knows our hearts. We need to love God with all our hearts.


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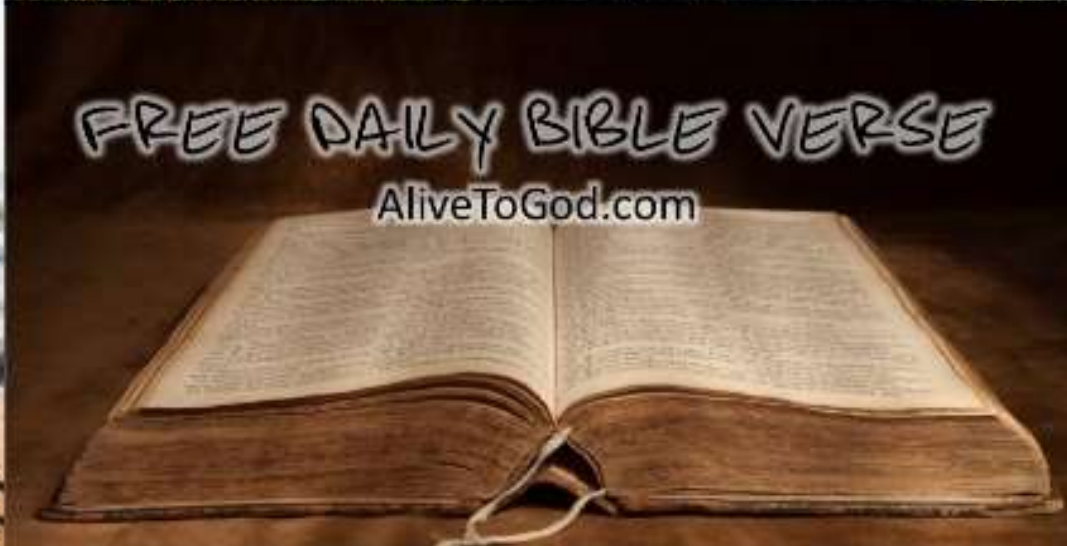

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