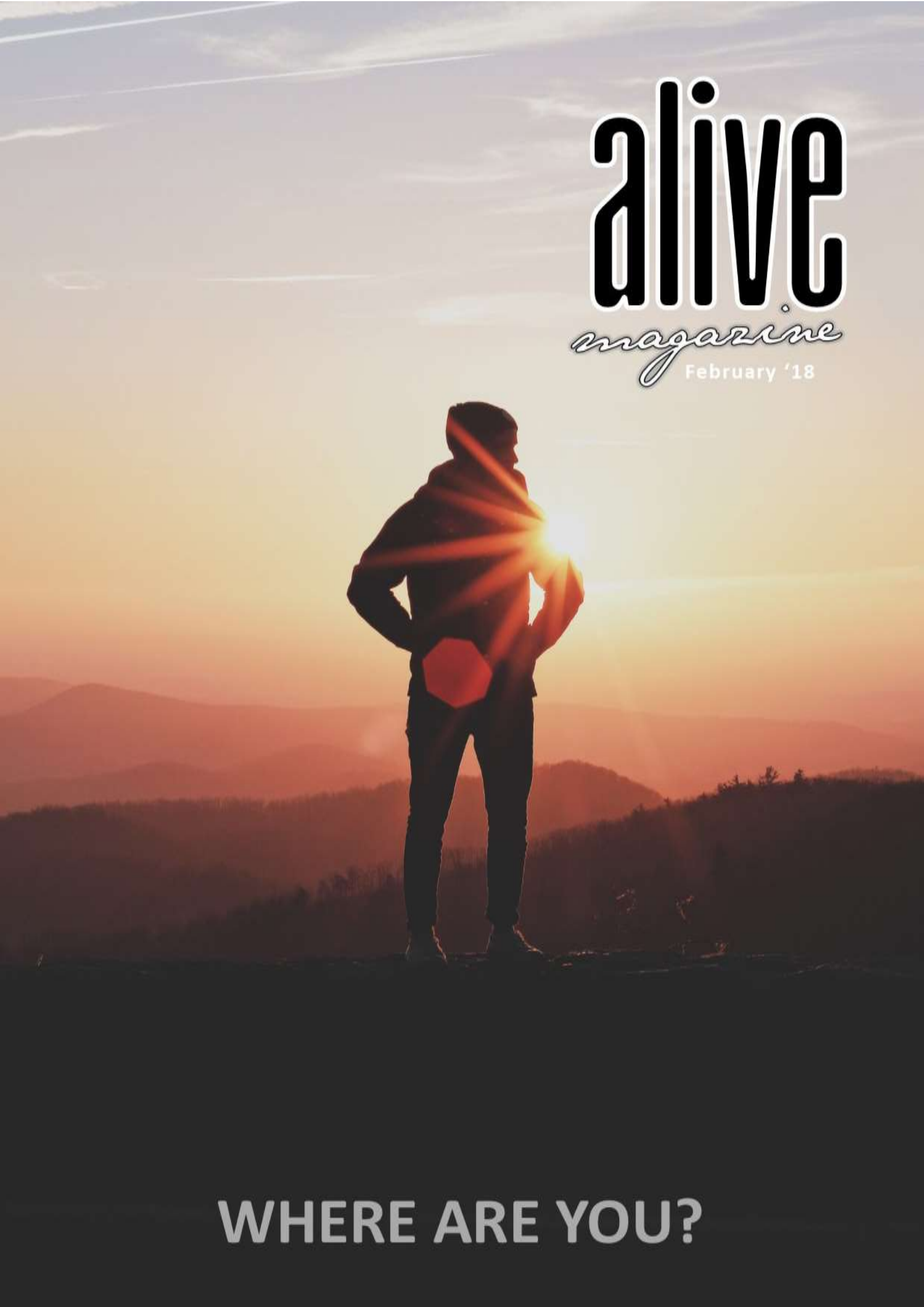
alive magazine

February '18



WHERE ARE YOU?

Support

ALIVE TO GOD IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY YOU!

AND OTHER GENEROUS READERS SUCH AS YOURSELF

BANKING DETAILS

Account Name: Alive to God
Bank: Standard Bank
Account Number: 411338196
(Cheque/transmission)
Branch: Menlyn
Reference: Your email address

DEBIT ORDERS

You can give regularly by means of a debit order. If you would like to make use of this option, please email us at andrew@alivetogod.com

www.AliveToGod.com/donate-support

https://paypal.com/webapps/mpp/send-money-online

CONTENTS

+ featured articles

4 **WHERE ARE YOU?**
- Andrew Roebert –

8 **WALKING WITHOUT STUMBLING**
- Andrew Roebert –

10 **WHEN THE 'WE' IS BREAKING APART**
- Cindy and Steve Wright –

12 **THUS FAR THE LORD HAS HELPED US**
- Andrew Roebert –

14 **THE RIGHT TIME**
- Andrew Roebert –

16 **I WANT TO WANT GOD MORE**
- Andrew Roebert –

18 **THE SECRET PLACE**
- Andrew Roebert –



WHERE ARE YOU?

By: Andrew W Roebert

Where are you today with God? Have you ever actually given your life and heart to Him? Is He YOUR Saviour and YOUR God? Perhaps you have loved and served God for years.....But are you where you should be with Him? Do you enjoy the relationship you used to know? Do you enjoy the relationship with Him that you long for? Is there anything in the way that could be blocking your relationship with Him? Is there anything that you are hiding from Him? Where are you when it comes to God today?

SCRIPTURE READING: Genesis 2:15 – 3:10

RELATIONSHIP – GOD'S ORIGINAL DESIGN.

Genesis 3:8 'Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day…'

Relationship was God's plan and intention for His creation. He would come in the cool of the day and walk with Adam and Eve and talk with them. I love the picture of walking with someone in the cool of the day... It is not a picture of a race track, or a quick appointment. It is a picture of uninterrupted, relaxed interaction. God had even created the environment in which they would walk and it was a magnificent garden. So the Lord creates the environment and the opportunity for fellowship with Him. His ultimate aim with everything He does is relationship and the restoration of relationship. Even when He sent His Son, Jesus, it was a deliberate attempt to bring humanity back into relationship with Himself. Relationship is a priority to God. The question we have to ask ourselves is; is relationship a priority with us, and especially when it comes to our relationship with God? It was a priority for the Creator of The Universe to make time and purposefully connect with mankind in a focused and suitable environment. It is still a priority for the Creator of The Universe to meet and interact with each one of us. Relationship with you is what is on God's heart.

WE NEED TO DEVELOP OUR SENSITIVITY TO HIS PRESENCE.

We need to develop our sensitivity towards God. In the busyness of life, do we actually know when He is trying to get our attention or if He is present? In the story of Adam and Eve in the garden, there is a verse that speaks about this.

Genesis 3:8 'Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as He was walking in the garden…'

I have always loved this verse as it is something special. The Garden of Eden must have been a very large place and Adam and Eve could have wondered off in any direction. But there would come a time in the day when they would 'hear a certain sound'. They knew this sound so well, because it was the sound of the Lord God as He arrived on the scene for His regular walk with them. Most translations use the word 'sound' some use the word 'voice', but the original Hebrew indicates both 'sound' and 'voice'. Are we sensitive enough to hear and respond to His 'sound' in our lives? Or are we simply too busy and too consumed with the issues of life to know He is calling us into deeper relationship with Him? I desire that I would always be ready to hear His 'sound' or His 'voice' as He calls out to me to know Him more dearly and to love Him more deeply. It is almost as if we have to 'tune in' to get rid of the noise and discern that He is calling to us. Sometimes we are listening to so many voices that it is difficult to discern His 'sound' above the din. Remember He has designed you for relationship with Him and He is calling out to you. He comes to different people in different ways. He comes to us if we are saints and He comes to us if we are sinners. Let us be determined that we want more relationship with Him and we will develop our sensitivity to His presence in our lives. Let this be a quality choice and a determined purpose.

AVOIDING THE GREAT DIVIDE.

There is the possibility that this wonderful relationship that we were designed and created for can be hindered. When this relationship is damaged or broken it causes a divide to come between us and God. Adam and Eve had done what they were specifically told not to do and this changed the nature of the relationship.

Genesis 3:8 'So they hid from the LORD God among the trees.'

How often as humans when we do something wrong we want to run away and hide. You have heard of 'hit and run' accidents, when an accident occurs that the perpetrator rides off in the hope that they will escape the consequences of their actions. The great divide is sin. When sin comes into our hearts and lives it brings a separation between us and the Lord.

Isaiah 59:2 'But your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, And your sins have hidden His face from you so that He does not hear.'

Iniquities, is the word that the Bible uses for sin or wrong-doing. Sin changes the dynamic. Remember that Adam and Eve were in relationship with the Lord. They were not strangers to God. But sin caused them to see themselves and God in a different light. As a result they chose to change their appearance (they covered themselves with leaves) and they chose to hide from God. In the process innocence was lost. Don't give sin a foothold in your life. Deal ruthlessly with sin and when it happens don't run and hide from God, but rather run towards Him. Be quick to confess, because He is ready to forgive.

1 John 1:9 'If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.'

Remember that nothing can be hidden from God. Let's live in such a way as to preserve and develop our relationship with Him and let us stay away from sin and its ability to bring a separation and a divide between us and our precious creator.

THAT TIME – THE COOL OF THE DAY.

Years ago there was a man that was well known to our family. He was a great man that God had used in our country. One day he told us that he had a certain quote written in the front of His diary. The quote simply said the following: 'There are just two days in my life, THIS day and THAT day!' He told us that he lived by this principle that there are only two days that really matter in our lives, today and that day when we will see the Lord. Life is compared to a day. It has a dawning or a birthing, it has a daytime period during the heat of the day and then it has an ending or a setting, usually flowing out of the cool of the day. When we are in the 'heat of the day' in our lives, it may feel like it will go on forever. The truth of the matter is that the 'cool of the day' can sometimes arrive quickly or unexpectedly.

Genesis 3:8 'Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as He was walking in the garden in the cool of the day…'

There are two things we can read into this phrase; 'the cool of the day'.

1. God was very patient with them. He did not immediately deal with them, but he waited.

The Lord is very patient towards us.

2 Peter 3:9 'The Lord is not slow to fulfil His promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.'

Sometimes we can see God as this figure waiting to dish out flashes of lightning to deal with us. The Lord's desire is that we would come to repentance before judgement is required.

James 2:13 'Mercy triumphs over judgment.'

2. The Lord did not abandon them, He still came to them.

Even though they had done wrong and God, being all-knowing, knew of the error of their ways, He still faithfully comes to them at exactly the same time in exactly the same way. We serve such a faithful Father and He is a Good, Good Father. In our situations, He does not abandon or leave us, but He comes to us.

WHERE ARE YOU?

In the past when the Lord would come and meet them in the garden, they would be ready to meet Him. But this time they had run away and hid themselves. But the Lord, who knew exactly where they were, calls out and asks humanity one of the most important questions, Where are you? It's a question that we need to ask ourselves. Where are you when it comes to your relationship with God?

1. Are you covering things up?

Genesis 3:7 'Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.'

Trying to make things look better than they are never works with God. It may work on Facebook, but God sees through all our attempts at covering things up.

Proverbs 28:13 'He that covers his sins shall not prosper: but whosoever confesses and forsakes them shall have mercy.'

2. Are you hiding anything from God?

Genesis 3:9-10 The LORD God called to the man, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid."

We can never hide anything from God. He sees all, knows all and loves us all the same.

Hebrews 4:13 'Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.'

So we see that it is a futile thing to cover up things or to try and hide. Where are you? Is there any aspect that needs to be brought into the light? Do you need to step out of the shadows and into His glorious light?

COME HOME TO THE ARMS OF THE ONE WHO LOVES AND CARES FOR YOU!

I often wonder what would have happened if Adam and Eve had rushed out to meet the Lord when He arrived and fell at His feet in repentance? We will never know how things would have turned out had they not covered and hidden things, but we do know that because of what Christ did for us on the cross, we can 'come home' to the loving arms of our Heavenly Father. In the story of the prodigal son we see things illustrated in great detail.

Luke 15:20 'So he got up and went to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion for him; he ran to his son, threw his arms around him and kissed him.'

There is no need to cover anything and there is no need to run and hide. Run into His open arms with whatever it is that you may be carrying. He is ready and willing to receive and cover you and your issues. Notice the response:

1. While he was still on route, a long way off, his father saw him!

His father had been waiting and watching for this moment for years. The moment the father had longed for had finally arrived.

2. His father's heart was FILLED with compassion.

Some translations say he was moved with compassion. The original Greek speaks of something taking place in the inward parts or even in the organs of the body. It speaks of a movement from the very seat of his affections. Gut-wrenching may be a better word to describe it.

3. He runs to his son.

For an old man to run is both difficult and undignified. But this father, a picture of our Heavenly Father, ran in this way to his son.

4. He threw his arms around him.

This was not a tender embrace. I was a forceful, involuntary and demonstrative action and would remove all doubt and debate.

5. He kissed him.

This became an intimate and uniquely personal moment between a son and his father. The Lord is waiting to do this for you. Come home!



WALKING WITHOUT STUMBLING

By: Andrew Roebert

God wants us to walk without stumbling. He wants us to walk with renewed strength. God wants to be able to run without growing weary and He wants us to walk without fainting. No matter if it is in our day-to-day lives or in or spiritual lives, God does not want us to stumble.

Isaiah 40:30-31 'Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall, but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.'

Let us see how we can realise this wonderful life that God has for us.

WE NEED STRENGTH

We need to realise that we need strength and that we need God's strength in our lives. We cannot always run on our own strength. Sooner or later we will need His divine strength. We have no power of our own. If we are going to walk without stumbling we need God's strength.

Isaiah 40:29-31 He gives power to the tired and worn out, and strength to the weak. Even the youths shall be exhausted, and the young men will all give up. But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength. They shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.'

We can have a source of renewed strength that will allow us to walk without stumbling.

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO STUMBLE?

It can mean anyone of the following:

1. To fall into sin or waywardness
2. To make an error or to blunder
3. To experience obstacles that allow us to fall
4. To trip in walking or running
5. To walk unsteadily or clumsily
6. To trip

God does not want us to stumble through life. God wants us to walk with Him through life confidently.

TWO KEYS TO AVOID STUMBLING

We need to know if there are any aspects we need to be on the lookout for. Proverbs tells us that to avoid stumbling we need to have two things:

1. Wisdom – Knowing and doing right
2. Common sense

Proverbs 3:21-23 have two goals: wisdom—that is, knowing and doing right—and common sense. Don't let them slip away, for they fill you with living energy and bring you honour and respect. They keep you safe from defeat and disaster and from stumbling off the trail.

We need to take advantage of the wisdom God has given and the wisdom He wants to continue giving us. Common sense is our ability to have sound and prudent judgment. We must use these keys that God has given us and they will help us walk without stumbling.

DOING WHAT IS RIGHT

As we endeavour to do what is right we will stay clear of stumbling and falling. Living a life of doing right is the way to live without stumbling. None of us want to stumble. We all want to walk with confidence and assurance. We can walk in this way if we are doing what is right. If you are walking a road of not doing what is right you can expect a stumbling experience.

Proverbs 4:11-12 I would have you learn this great fact: that a life of doing right is the wisest life there is. If you live that kind of life, you'll not limp or stumble as you run.

Let's determine to do what is right, for then we will be able to walk without stumbling.

GOD WANTS TO LEAD US

If God leads us this is the surest way of not stumbling. God does not cause us to stumble. He wants us to avoid stumbling. If we will allow Him to lead us then we can know that we will not stumble.

Jeremiah 31:9 I will lead them beside streams of water on a level path where they will not stumble.

Won't you let the Lord lead you? I believe that God is waiting and wanting to lead each of us.

THE REWARD

If we will love the word of God and His laws we will not stumble.

Psalm 119:165 'Those who love your laws have great peace of heart and mind and do not stumble.'

Joshua 1:8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.

Listen to the rewards:
1. Great peace of heart and mind
2. We will not stumble
3. Then you will be prosperous
4. Then you will be successful

What great rewards. As we develop a love for God's word we can avoid stumbling.

ALWAYS THINKING OF THE LORD

I like this one. If God is a living reality to us, then we can experience Him and will not need to stumble and fall.
Without the reality of God in our lives stumbling and falling can be on going. Let your thoughts be full of thoughts about God.

Psalm 16:8 I am always thinking of the Lord; and because he is so near, I never need to stumble or fall.

Let heaven fill your thoughts. It is important that we experience God.

GOD IS WATCHING US

It is great to know that God is carefully watching us. God wants to see us walking without stumbling. He is ready to lead and guide us all along the way.

Psalm 121:3-4 He will never let me stumble, slip, or fall. For he is always watching, never sleeping.

This is God's heart for us. When we endeavour to do what is right and allow God to lead us, we can experience. the joy of knowing that He is watching us and He wants to guard against us falling and stumbling. This is life that God has for us

When the "We" is Breaking Apart

By Cindy and Steve Wright – MarriageMissions.com

Have you ever been to a wedding where the marrying couple lights a "Unity" candle? The premise of lighting this candle is to symbolize two individual lives becoming "one" after the ceremony. But do they? From that day forward, do they start behaving as if they're united as a marital team as they pledge they will? Or does the "we" start breaking apart after the wedding? We confess that what we promised became a distant memory after the wedding. From that day forward, life started to push us apart in all of its busyness. It never even occurred to us that we would need to be intentional in developing a "we" after we married. We felt so close to each other before the wedding that we assumed we would just progressively grow closer. We were wrong. And sadly, multitudes of other couples grab onto that same wrong assumption.

When the "WE" is Breaking Apart

So to help us do what it takes to build a great marriage partnership, we are sharing something that Dr David Ludwig writes on this matter. He is a contributing author to the book, Lovers for Life: Strengthening and Preserving Your Marriage compiled by Kenneth C. Musko. Dr Ludwig's particular chapter is titled, "Think We, Not Me."

Here is a portion of what Dr Ludwig writes:

"Think of the last time the mood shifted between the two of you. Perhaps it was last night when Mother called, or when you talked about money. Let me guess who you blamed for your frustration and internal upset. It wasn't yourself, so you blamed the only other person you could see, right? "Well, you made a critical error! Neither of you controls the mood of your relationship. The 'we' controls the atmosphere! When the two of you are allies and your spirits are united, the mood is uplifting and friendly. But when the 'we' breaks down and you are at odds with each other, the mood shifts to turbulent and upsetting. When you harbor resentment toward each other, a bad mood settles into the relationship. No wonder Paul advises,

'Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace' (Ephesians 4:3).

He uses even stronger language in:

Philippians 2:1-2, 'If you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any fellowship with the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and purpose.'

When Our Marital "One" is Breaking Apart

"When you are 'one in spirit,' you have a safe place with each other. The mood is friendly, and you are allies. You are a 'we' and are working together. It is safe to share your thoughts and feelings with each other. You can be 'soul mates.' "But when the 'we' breaks down, it's no longer safe! You're defensive and guarded. The relationship splits into 'you' and 'me.' There is no one in charge, and the atmosphere becomes uncertain and confusing. Both of you get your feelings hurt and end up upset and angry with each other. Since you cannot see the 'we,' you blame each other for the hurt and frustration. You think, If only he/she would not react that way. Then you spend your energy trying to change the other person. "But the other person is not to blame! You cannot see the 'we,' but it does control the spirit (mood) of the relationship. When this 'one another' breaks down, the mood shifts. No wonder the apostle Paul uses the words one another so often:

'Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ' (Ephesians 5:21).

The 'one another' is the 'we.'

Breaking Apart the "WE"

"The deep spiritual meaning of this passage is to make the 'we' more important than the 'me.' When your feelings are hurt and you are upset, it's natural to nurse hurt feelings and seek to get even. Both of these actions put the 'me' as more important than the 'we.' "So how do you do the 'unnatural' and put the 'we' above your own hurt and upset? The answer is in the aforementioned verse: 'out of reverence for Christ.' The Holy Spirit can change your attitude at this critical moment. Christ's presence has the power to change your heart and mind to make this shift from 'me" to "we.'' "As you pray, 'Lord, help my spirit; help change my attitude,' His Spirit will be at work in your heart to change reality. Call this a 'reality check.' Right in the midst of your desire to nurse your hurt feelings, Christ will remind you of His love and of your love for one another. This will help to put the relationship in its

Proper place. The ‘we’ will become more important than the ‘me.’

Your Reality Check

“The next time the mood shifts and you are left confused, hurt and upset, try the following steps:

1. Become aware that the ‘we’ just broke down.
2. Stop blaming the other person.
3. Assume that there has been a misunderstanding.
4. Offer a prayer to get your attitude right.
5. Approach the other person in the right spirit.
6. Begin by saying, ‘WE have a problem. Let’s talk.’’

“Don’t think this is easy! It is highly unnatural. It is more natural to assume that the other person is to blame. This is what puts the ‘me’ above the ‘we.’ So don’t overlook the importance of bringing Christ into the equation. His love changes reality. His presence can make the ‘we’ more important than the ‘me.’ “Put the following on your refrigerator door or bathroom mirror:

“SUBMIT TO ONE ANOTHER OUT OF REVERENCE TO CHRIST.”

As Jesus said:

“At the beginning of creation God ‘made them male and female. For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.’ So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate.” (Mark 10:6-9)

When it comes to being united, keep in mind that WE, as individuals, can be the ones who contribute to breaking apart the “WE” that God does not want us to separate. May you be intentional in continually working to be united in every important area of your married lives together.

“May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, so that with one heart and mouth you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!” (Romans 15:5-6)



THUS FAR THE LORD HAS HELPED US!

By Andrew Roebert

We continue to live in interesting times. There is so much on the go both here and around the world. Yet God has undertaken. What would He say to you and me today? What is God's message for you and me right now?

1 Samuel 7:7-13

The Israelites were badly frightened when they learned that the Philistines were approaching.
"Plead with the LORD our God to save us from the Philistines!" they begged Samuel.
So Samuel took a young lamb and offered it to the LORD as a whole burnt offering. He pleaded with the LORD to help Israel, and the LORD answered.
Just as Samuel was sacrificing the burnt offering, the Philistines arrived for battle. But the LORD spoke with a mighty voice of thunder from heaven, and the Philistines were thrown into such confusion that the Israelites defeated them.
The men of Israel chased them from Mizpah to Beth-car, slaughtering them all along the way.
Samuel then took a large stone and placed it between the towns of Mizpah and Jeshanah. He named it Ebenezer—"the stone of help"—for he said, "Up to this point the LORD has helped us!"
So the Philistines were subdued and didn't invade Israel again for a long time. And throughout Samuel's lifetime, the LORD's powerful hand was raised against the Philistines.

LIFE IS UNPREDICTABLE

Life is full on unknowns. There are no guarantees in life. What is sure one moment; may not be sure in the next moment. Here the Nation of Israel is minding their own business and doing well and suddenly they are under attack. The enemy is approaching and the storm clouds are brewing. Suddenly life, as they know it, has changed and they are facing a battle. In the same way life is unpredictable. Life has a way of changing. Unpredictable means likely to change frequently, suddenly, or unexpectedly. It is like in our summers. We can have a beautiful day with calm weather and sunshine and then in the middle of the afternoon dark, black storms clouds come rolling in and we can experience a violent Highveld thunderstorm. My father had a favorite saying:

'CONSTANT CHANGE IS HERE TO STAY!'

WE CAN ALWAYS CALL ON THE LORD!

No matter what we are facing or going through, we can always call on the Lord. The Nation of Israel called out to the Lord in fear and desperation. So Samuel pleaded with the LORD to help Israel, and the LORD answered. In the unpredictability of life we have the constant knowledge that we can call on God and ask Him to help us. It does not matter if it is a major or a minor battle, we can call on Him. The Nation of Israel did not first see what they could do in their own strength and then call on God, they called on Him first. Oftentimes, in life we try to fight our own battles and only call on God when we are exhausted and burnt out. Call on God first and let Him intervene in the battle. In the days and weeks that lie ahead, remember to call on God, He will be there for you!

GOD WORKS IN UNEXPECTED WAYS

When God works it is not often as we would expect or anticipate. Often we think we know how God should work. I had an email from someone recently and he said he was trusting God to remove his debt. He was writing to me because he could not understand why his debt had not yet disappeared. You see he had an idea that God would simply remove his debt, but God was at work in his life and that he could not see.

In this story the Nation of Israel is under attack and they call out to God. I wonder how they thought God may intervene. Perhaps they thought God would 'REMOVE' the enemy. But something strange happened. The Philistines arrived for battle. But the LORD spoke with a mighty voice of thunder from heaven, and the Philistines were thrown into such confusion that the Israelites defeated them. God actually allowed the battle to be brought right into their faces. And they had to kill the enemy. The men of Israel chased them (the enemy), slaughtering them all along the way. This is sure a strange way to bring victory. Could there not have been another way or a 'cleaner' way? God works in unexpected ways. His ways are not our ways.

Isaiah 55:9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.

THUS FAR THE LORD HAS HELPED US!

As we look back over life, we can see how God has helped each one of us. You are here today, because God has undertaken up to this point. He has brought you this far. He has helped you in the course of life to get to this point. He has brought you through the storms of life and through the battles, victories, joys and heartache. Sometimes we must just STOP and take a moment to remember. This is what the nation of Israel did. Samuel then took a large stone. He named it Ebenezer—"the stone of help"—for he said, "Up to this point the LORD has helped us!" This stone was a memorial to God's goodness. This is a memorial service. Let it be a time when you focus of God's goodness up to this point. Yes, it is a watershed moment, but just as God has helped in the past, so He will help you tomorrow, next week, next month, next year and for the rest of your life – IF YOU WILL LET HIM! Based on how God has undertaken in the past, you can have confidence that He will help you in the future. It is in His character and nature to do so.

THE HAND OF GOD IS WITH YOU!

So the Philistines were subdued and didn't invade Israel again for a long time. And throughout Samuel's lifetime, the LORD's powerful hand was raised against the Philistines. The Apostle Peter when he was sinking in the water called out to Jesus and Jesus reached out his hand and grabbed Peter.

Psalm 144:7 Stretch forth Your hand from above; rescue me and deliver me out of great waters.

Psalm 145:16 You open Your hand and satisfy every living thing with favor.

Psalm 119:73 Your hands have made me and fashioned (formed) me.

Psalm 31:15 My times are in Your hands!

Psalm 139:7-10 Where can I go from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I go up to the heavens, You are there; if I make my bed in the depths, You are there. If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there Your hand will guide me; Your right hand will hold me fast.

The hand of God is with you today and He will see you through!



THE RIGHT TIME

By Andrew Roebert

We all go through certain time frames in our lives. I like to compare them to seasons. Seasons come and go. I find that just when I have had too much of the heat of summer, winter begins to arrive and when I have had enough of the cold, spring is in the air. When we are in a season we may think it will never end. But there is a right time and season for everything.

A RIGHT TIME FOR EVERYTHING

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 There is a right time for everything: 2A time to be born; A time to die; A time to plant; A time to harvest; 3A time to kill; A time to heal; A time to destroy; A time to rebuild; 4A time to cry; A time to laugh; A time to grieve; A time to dance; 5A time for scattering stones; A time for gathering stones; A time to hug; A time not to hug; A time to find; A time to lose; A time for keeping; A time for throwing away; 7A time to tear; A time to repair; A time to be quiet; A time to speak up; 8A time for loving; A time for hating; A time for war; A time for peace.

This scripture has always amazed me. As Christians we find it hard to believe that these negatives should even happen, let alone that there would be a right time for them. An example: we may think that there is never a right time for war, but yet this scripture tells us that there is a time for war. Perhaps you are going through a season of one of these 'negatives'. These can be difficult times but let's allow God to help us through each stage or season of life that we may pass through.

TIMING IS EVERYTHING

Have you heard this phrase before? I have heard businessmen tell me how crucial timing is to the success of a deal or transaction. In our lives as Christians we also face the timing issue. We need to be sensitive to the time frame we find ourselves in. Timing can make the difference between success and failure. I remember my father telling me that there are times to 'back off' or 'back down'. If we miss these time we can end up hurt and devastated, but if we can read these times we can step towards success and God's plan for our lives.

UNDERSTANDING TIMING

This can be one of the most difficult and challenging tasks. I have seen people rush in to things long before the time is right. The result is usually devastating. It is difficult for us human beings who are caught up in time to understand timing. We are always in a hurry and want things to happen instantaneously. But there is a time for everything. This is something we need to understand and gain a grasp of so that we will not make mistakes.

THE HANDS OF THE CLOCK

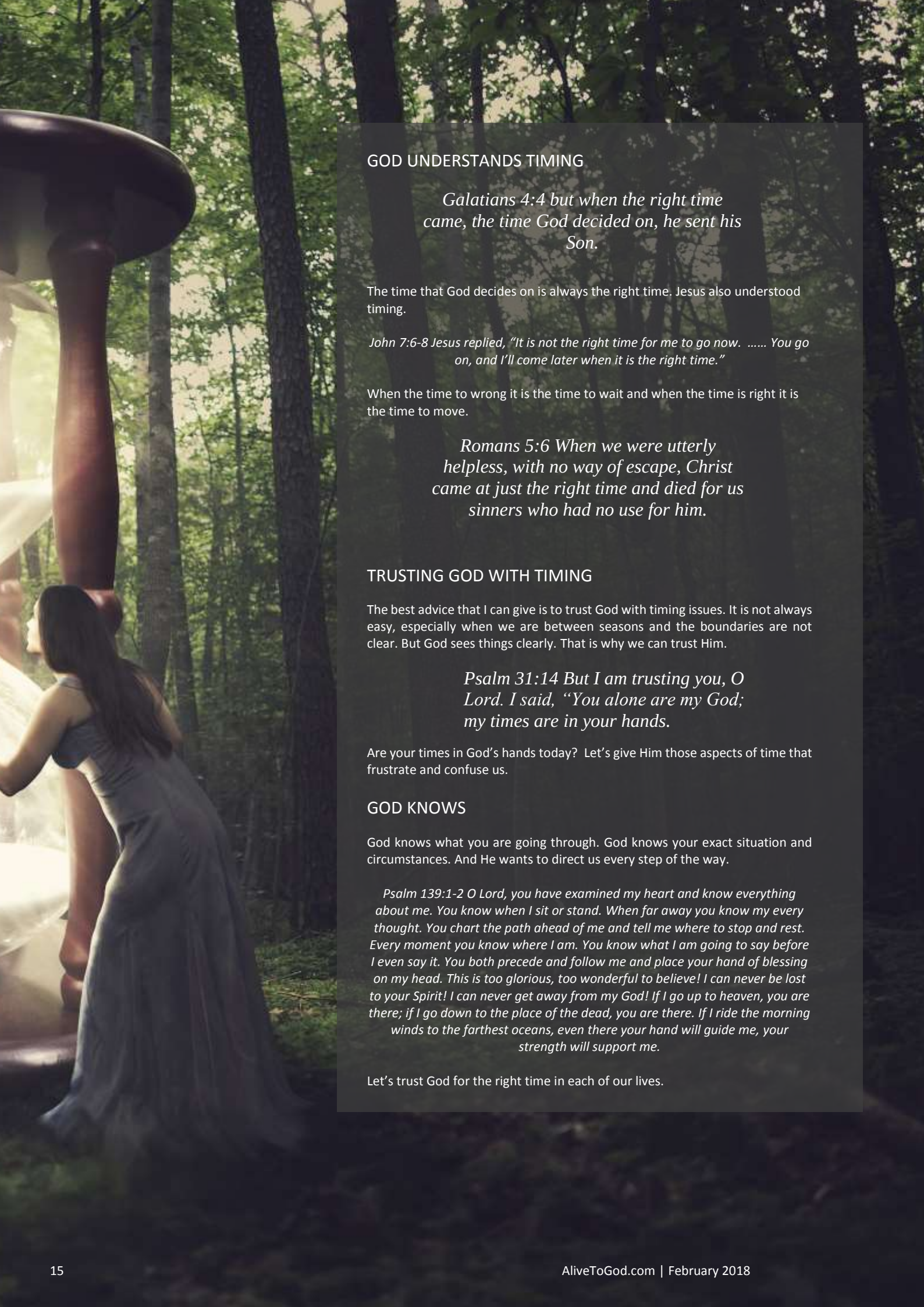
Sometimes what we want to do is to push the hands of the clock up to the twelve o' clock position. We want to get to our goal now. My mother was taking music lessons as a little girl. She was expected to practice each day for 30 minutes. She did not enjoy the practicing. There was a clock on the wall by which her parents would set the practice time. In her desperation she would sneak up to the clock, when no one was looking and push the minute hand forward so that she could end her practice early. Naturally her parents were not that stupid and the end result was usually discipline. Sometimes we live like this. We keep jumping up to push the hands of the clock on a little so that we can get on with what we think is good for us. Time is destined to move at a particular speed.

GOD'S TIMING

This can be a very difficult aspect of us as Christians to understand. God lives in an eternal time frame with no beginning and no end. We live in a momentary time frame with a definite beginning and a sure end. It is for this reason that we see things very differently.

Isaiah 55:8-9 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

God sees things in a different light. He is not under pressure from time.



GOD UNDERSTANDS TIMING

Galatians 4:4 but when the right time came, the time God decided on, he sent his Son.

The time that God decides on is always the right time. Jesus also understood timing.

John 7:6-8 Jesus replied, "It is not the right time for me to go now. …… You go on, and I'll come later when it is the right time."

When the time to wrong it is the time to wait and when the time is right it is the time to move.

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

TRUSTING GOD WITH TIMING

The best advice that I can give is to trust God with timing issues. It is not always easy, especially when we are between seasons and the boundaries are not clear. But God sees things clearly. That is why we can trust Him.

Psalm 31:14 But I am trusting you, O Lord. I said, "You alone are my God; my times are in your hands.

Are your times in God's hands today? Let's give Him those aspects of time that frustrate and confuse us.

GOD KNOWS

God knows what you are going through. God knows your exact situation and circumstances. And He wants to direct us every step of the way.

Psalm 139:1-2 O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit or stand. When far away you know my every thought. You chart the path ahead of me and tell me where to stop and rest. Every moment you know where I am. You know what I am going to say before I even say it. You both precede and follow me and place your hand of blessing on my head. This is too glorious, too wonderful to believe! I can never be lost to your Spirit! I can never get away from my God! If I go up to heaven, you are there; if I go down to the place of the dead, you are there. If I ride the morning winds to the farthest oceans, even there your hand will guide me, your strength will support me.

Let's trust God for the right time in each of our lives.

I WANT TO WANT GOD MORE

By: Andrew W Roebert

Many of the great people in the Bible wanted more of God. Moses was one! He asked to see God's glory. David was another.

Psalm 42:2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?

The Apostle Paul also wanted more of God. This is how he expressed his desire:

Philippians 3:10 I want to know Christ

It was the goal of these men's hearts to know more of God. This should be our desire also.

LOOKING FOR WHAT WE ALREADY HAVE

In a sense, if we are Christians, we already have God. However, that is only the start. We look for more of what we already have. It is what we already have that causes us to desire more. We each have to seek God individually. Other people cannot look for more of God on our behalf. He is waiting for each one of us to seek Him. It is His intention to show us more of Himself.

THE DESIRE

Moses had a desire to experience more of God.

Exodus 33:18 'Then Moses asked to see God's glory'.

He wanted more of God. We are encouraged to taste and see that the Lord is good. (Ps 34:8) This must be because there is more to experience. We should live like this, wanting to taste and experience more of God. Wanting to touch God with our hearts. Wanting to see more of God.

ENCOURAGING THE DESIRE

I have a desire for more of God and I want to encourage that desire. I want a mighty longing for God in my life. Complacency and religion are the enemy of spiritual growth. God wants to be wanted. If you desire more of God that is a good thing! Stir it up! Encourage that desire for more of God.

THE CURSE OF THIS AGE

Every age has its particular problems. Right now we have several. They hold us back from wanting and experiencing more of God. They include: materialism, legalism and busyness. We also live in an age of religious busyness. Instead of experiencing God we have, PROGRAMS, EVENTS, FUNCTIONS, STRUCTURES and COMMITTEES, and a bunch of activities that keep us busy and take our attention. All of these things, however good they may be, can never satisfy the longing in our heart for more of God.

WHAT MUST WE DO?

We must simplify our lives. Get rid of things that hold us back or trip us up.

Hebrews 12:1 Let us strip off anything that slows us down or holds us back, and especially those sins that wrap themselves so tightly around our feet and trip us up.

We must get rid of things that would stand in the way. We must not try and impress others, but we must approach God like children. We must expect that God will respond and that we will experience more of God for ourselves.

THE RESULT

God will respond! I believe that God does not delay in responding. As we approach God like children He will move towards us.

James 4:8 When you draw close to God, God will draw close to you.

This is a promise and commitment from God. It is something that we can be sure of.

GOD IS THE ONE WE NEED

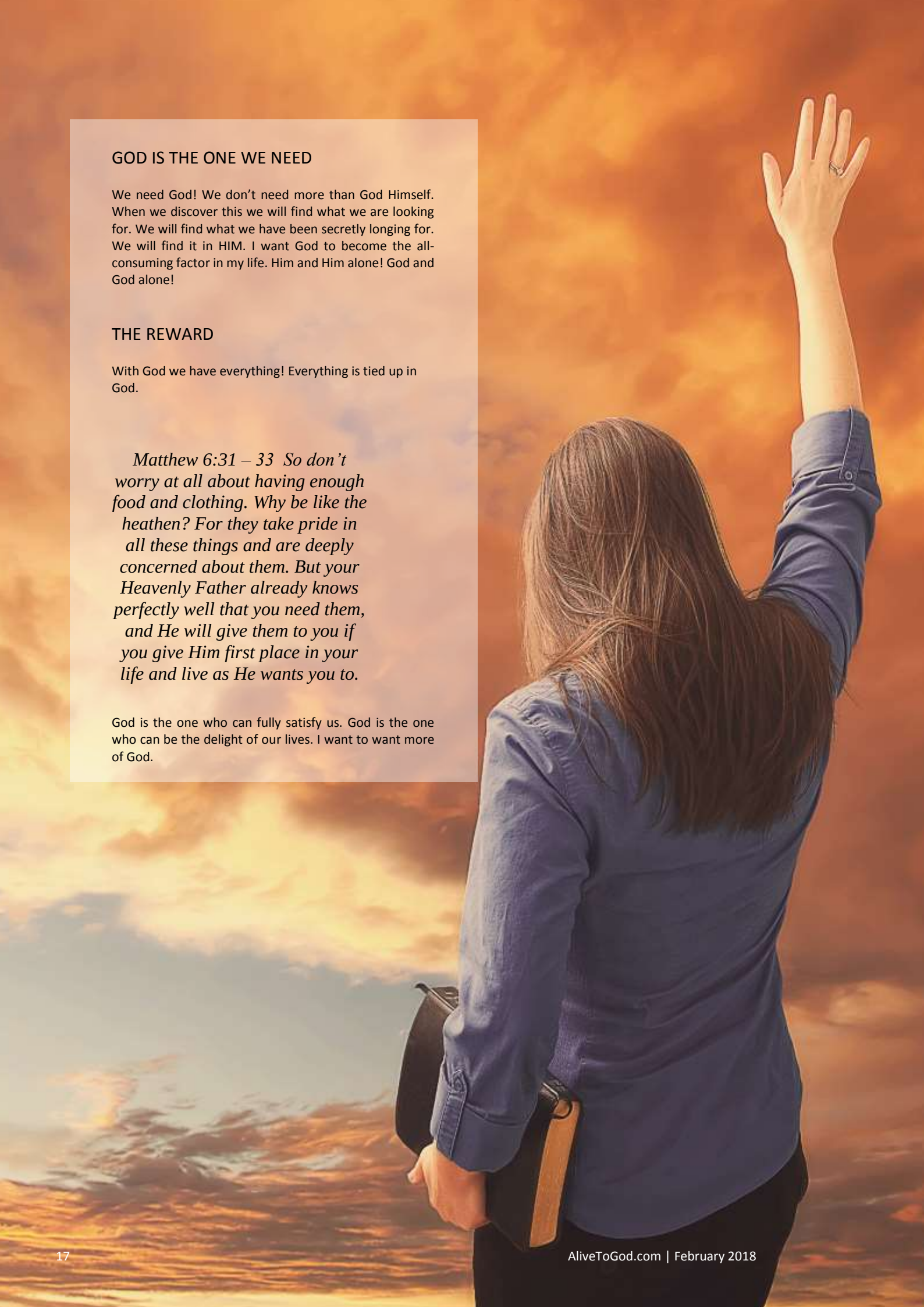
We need God! We don't need more than God Himself. When we discover this we will find what we are looking for. We will find what we have been secretly longing for. We will find it in HIM. I want God to become the all-consuming factor in my life. Him and Him alone! God and God alone!

THE REWARD

With God we have everything! Everything is tied up in God.

Matthew 6:31 – 33 So don't worry at all about having enough food and clothing. Why be like the heathen? For they take pride in all these things and are deeply concerned about them. But your Heavenly Father already knows perfectly well that you need them, and He will give them to you if you give Him first place in your life and live as He wants you to.

God is the one who can fully satisfy us. God is the one who can be the delight of our lives. I want to want more of God.



THE SECRET PLACE

BY: Andrew Roebert

When I was a child I had a book entitled 'The Secret Garden'. In this book a young girl finds this place, an abandoned, beautiful secret garden. The story depicts her adventures in this secret place where she can be herself and be alone. The Bible also speaks of a secret place. It is a place that we as Christians are meant to discover. It is a place near to God where we can be ourselves and a place where we can enjoy God. God wants us in the secret place He has designed for each of us.

THERE IS A SECRET PLACE

The secret place is a place in God. It is a place where we can be totally at home with God. It is a place to which we can keep on returning. It is a place where we can enjoy being with God. A place where we can worship and love God.

Psalm 91:1 He that dwells in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

It is the character of a true Christians that he finds and dwells (stays) in the secret place of the Most High. There is a secret place for you and for me.

GOD IS IN THE SECRET PLACE

The secret place is a place where God is.

Matthew 6:17-18 "But you, when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, so that you do not appear to men to be fasting, but to your Father who is in the secret place; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you openly. (New King James Version)

This is what makes the secret place special. In fact anywhere where God is the secret place. I believe that within each of us God wants to live. What this means is that within each of us there is the possibility of a secret place.

WE CAN LIVE IN THE SECRET PLACE

Not only is there a secret place but we can live in this secret place

Psalm 91:1 He that dwells in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

What does it mean to dwell? The word dwell indicates remaining or staying for a time period. It can also mean to live as a resident. We need to stay, remain and live like we belong in this secret place. We can reside, abide, hang out, live and stay or tarry in the secret place. How much time do you spend in the secret place?

STAYING IN THE SECRET PLACE

Living in the secret place needs to be an ongoing experience. It should be our lifestyle. Not just a moment here and there. Life keeps us very busy with the distinct purpose of keeping us away from and out of the secret place.

Psalm 91:1 He that dwells in the secret place of the most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

The scripture tells us we should abide. What this means is that we should stay in this place without giving up. We need to be determined that this is where we are going to stay.

THE SECRET PLACE IS THE PLACE OF HIS PRESENCE

Psalm 31:19-20 How great is your goodness, which you have stored up for those who fear you, which you bestow in the sight of men on those who take refuge in you. You shall hide them in the secret place of Your presence from the plots of man.

The secret place is the place of His presence. God is in the secret place and as such we can experience His presence in this place. God wants us to enjoy His presence. God wants us to know His presence. There is safety and protection within the secret place of His presence. We all need a bit more of this.

THE CLEFT IN THE ROCK

Moses found this secret place. A place where He could experience God. In this place God made Himself real to Moses. Moses saw God. Moses knew God's presence.

Exodus 33:21-23 Then the LORD said, "There is a place near me where you may stand on a rock. When my glory passes by, I will put you in a cleft in the rock and cover you with my hand until I have passed by. Then I will remove my hand and you will see my back; but my face must not be seen."



The secret place is near to God. – 'There is a place near me' The secret place is found when we are near to God.

GOD IS CALLING US INTO THIS SECRET PLACE

God wants us to experience His secret place. It is for each one of us. God wants us to know and enjoy His presence.

Hebrews 3:15 But now is the time. Never forget the warning, "Today if you hear God's voice speaking to you, do not harden your hearts against him.

We must not harden our hearts. Hard hearts block us from the secret place that God has for us. God is calling you to the secret place in Him that is reserved for you. You are invited back to the secret place in God.

THE REWARDS OF LIVING IN THIS SECRET PLACE

Psalm 91:2-4 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Surely he will save you from the fowler's snare and from the deadly pestilence. He will cover you with his feathers, and under his wings you will find refuge.

Psalm 91:9-10 If you make the Most High your dwelling— even the LORD, who is my refuge— then no harm will befall you, no disaster will come near your tent.

As we stay in the secret place we can have victory over sin in our lives. The secret place is a place of freedom. Freedom from evil and freedom from sin. The result of experiencing God in this real way is holiness. Holiness brings its own protection. If God's presence is a reality to us, this will result in holiness and in this way we will overcome the forces of darkness, which would like to destroy us.


Timeless Christian Resources
RoebertMinistries.co.za
ROEBERT
MINISTRIES


ON AIR
IMPACT
103FM


ADDICTION?
ELIEZER MINISTRIES CAN HELP
Contact us for ministry in discipleship, Christian healing and deliverance from addiction
EliezerMinistries.com | healing@eliezerministries.com
062 HEALING (4325464) | Pretoria, South Africa
Trevor & Violet


CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITY
RADIO STATION
LISTEN LIVE
IMPACTRADIO.CO.ZA


MIDWEEK SPECIAL
Santorini in Ballito
FRONT ROW, GROUND FLOOR
SLEEPS 6, 2 BATHROOMS


Igoda Mouth Resort
AFFORDABLE SELF-CATERING FAMILY
HOLIDAY ACCOMMODATION IN EAST LONDON
IgodaMouthResort.co.za
+27 43 736 7017


MONDAY-WEDNESDAY
@R900 PER NIGHT
GET THURSDAY NIGHT FREE!
AKROTIRI19.WORDPRESS.COM
AKROTIRI19@GMAIL.COM


FREE DAILY BIBLE VERSE
AliveToGod.com