



# @ctivated

CHANGE YOUR LIFE. CHANGE YOUR WORLD.

## THE OIL LAMP

How to avoid burnout

## THERE IS NO LIMIT

What's stopping you from being all you can be?

## FACE VALUE

A heart buried in stone

For a wide range of books and audio and video productions to feed your soul, lift your spirit, strengthen your family, and provide fun learning times for your children, please contact one of our distributors below, or visit our Web site at [www.auroraproduction.com](http://www.auroraproduction.com).

Activated Ministries  
P.O. Box 462805  
Escondido, CA 92046-2805  
USA

[activatedUSA@activated.org](mailto:activatedUSA@activated.org)  
(1-877) 862-3228 (toll-free)

Activated Africa/Europe  
Bramingham Pk. Business Ctr.  
Enterprise Way  
Bramingham Park  
Luton, Beds. LU3 4BU  
England

[activatedEurope@activated.org](mailto:activatedEurope@activated.org)  
(07801) 442-317

Activated India  
P.O. Box 5215  
G.P.O.  
Bangalore - 560 001  
India

[activatedIndia@activated.org](mailto:activatedIndia@activated.org)

VISIT US AT  
[www.activated.org](http://www.activated.org)

EDITOR  
Keith Phillips

DESIGN  
Giselle LeFavre

PRODUCTION  
Francisco Lopez

Issue 20  
© 2001 Aurora Production, Ltd.  
All Rights Reserved  
Printed in Thailand

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations in *Activated* are from the New King James Version of the Bible ©1982 Thomas Nelson, Inc.

## personally speaking



Have you ever wondered why some Christians seem to radiate more of the Lord's love than others? Why do some seem to make faster progress in their spiritual lives? Why do they seem happier? Why do their choices seem to work out better? Chances are, those that seem closer to the Lord and more blessed have learned the simple secret contained in an old Sunday school chorus: "I want more of Jesus, so I'll give Him more of me."

It really is just that simple. And contrary to what most people seem to think about giving our all to Jesus, it's really not so bad! Yielding to the Lord and His will doesn't mean we need to brace ourselves for a life of only hardship and deprivation. Jesus promises that when we do things His way, our burdens will be easy and light (Matthew 11:28-30). It is we who often make life harder for ourselves than it needs to be by insisting on our own way or hanging on to what *we* think will make us happy. "This is the love of God"—this is what loving God is all about—"that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome" (1 John 5:3). "If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them" (John 13:17 KJV).

So if you've been sagging under the weight lately, maybe that's because you've been carrying the wrong burden. Maybe it's time for you to trade up. Trade in your will for His, and see what a difference that will make.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "Keith Phillips". The script is fluid and cursive.

Keith Phillips  
For the Activated family

f

mother once took her young son, who was just beginning to learn to play the piano, to hear the world-famous pianist Jan Paderewski in concert. After an usher had shown them their seats, the mother spotted a friend in the audience and walked down the aisle to greet her. The little boy saw that as his opportunity to explore the wonders of the concert hall, and eventually explored his way through a door marked “NO ADMITTANCE.” When the house lights dimmed and the concert was about to begin, the mother returned to her seat and discovered that her son was missing.

Suddenly, the curtains parted and spotlights focused on the impressive grand piano on stage. In horror, the mother saw her



little boy sitting at the keyboard, innocently picking out “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star.” At that moment, Paderewski made his entrance, quickly moved to the piano, and whispered in the boy’s ear, “Don’t quit. Keep playing.”

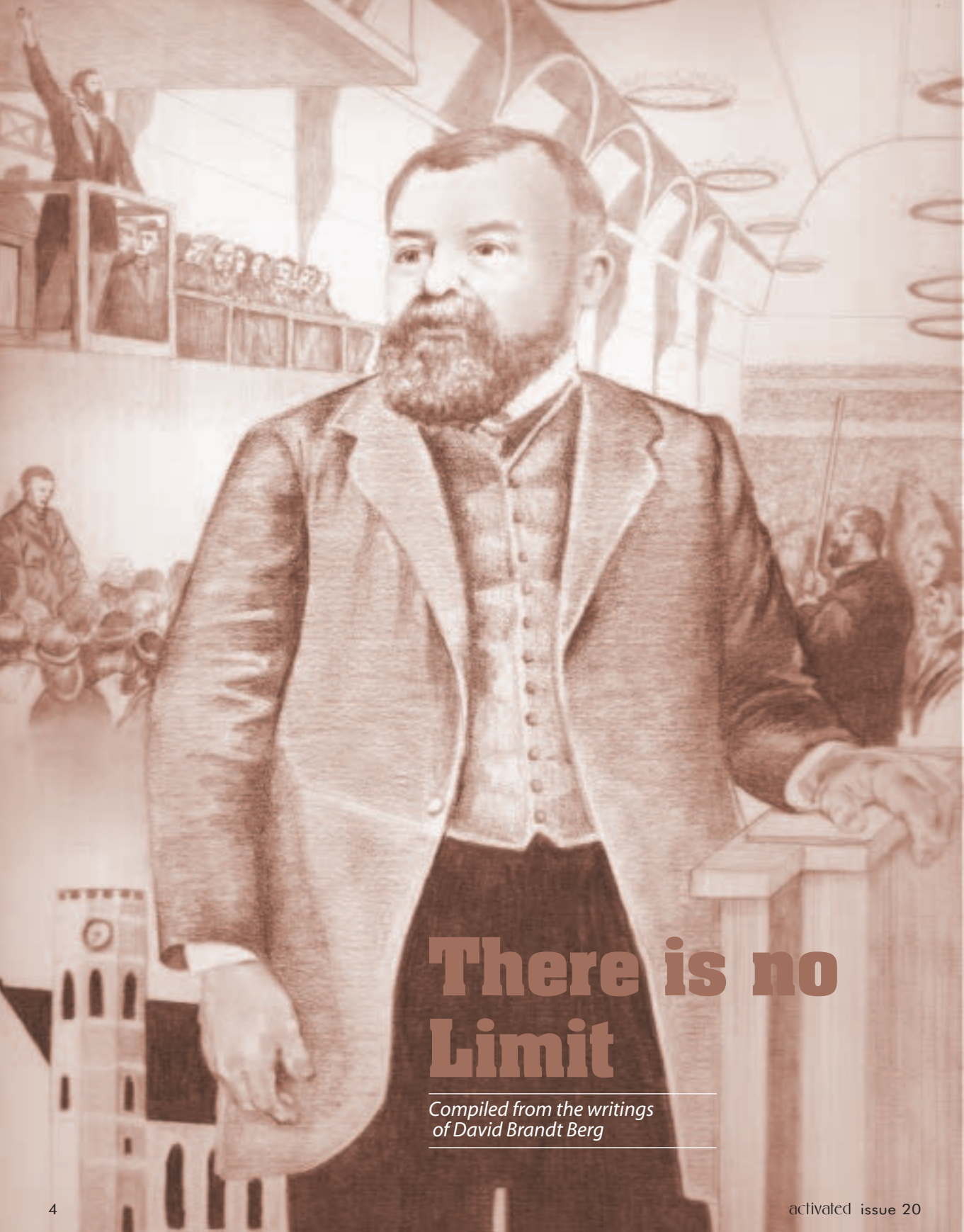
Then Paderewski leaned over, reached down with his left hand and began filling in a bass part. Soon his right arm reached around to the other side of the child and added a third part. Together, the old master and the young novice transformed a frightening situation into a wonderfully creative experience. The audience was mesmerized.

That’s the way it is with our heavenly Father. What we can accomplish on our own is hardly noteworthy. We try our best, but the results aren’t exactly graceful, flowing music. But with the hand of the Master, our life’s work truly can be beautiful.

Next time you set out to accomplish great feats, listen carefully. You can hear the voice of the Master, whispering in your ear, “Don’t quit. Keep playing.” Feel His loving arms around you. Know that His strong hands are there, helping you turn your feeble attempts into true masterpieces. Remember, God doesn’t call the equipped; He equips the called. As long as you’re trying your best to do what He knows is best, He’ll always be there to love and guide you on to great things.

—Author unknown

*“Don’t quit.  
Keep playing.”*




# There is no Limit

---

*Compiled from the writings  
of David Brandt Berg*

---





**T**he more we yield to the Lord and what He knows is best for us and those whose lives we affect by our decisions, the happier we and those others will be. That's why yieldedness to God's will is one of the most important things any of us can ever learn.

It reminds me of what an evangelist once told a former shoe salesman turned preacher: "Dwight L. Moody, there is no limit to what God can do with a man who is yielded and willing to do His will!"

Moody looked him in the eye and replied, "By the grace of God, I am determined to be that man!"—And he was!

A short while later, Moody moved to Chicago where he began telling others about Jesus and what He had done for him. Moody was soon so thrilled to find that he could lead other folks to the Lord, that he quit the shoe business and began serving Him full time. He went on to become one of the world's greatest evangelists. By the time he died in 1899, Moody had led tens of thousands of people to Jesus, and started a number of the ministries that are still going strong today.

But what if Moody had not determined to yield to the Lord? What a sad loss it would have been, not only for him, but also for millions who have since heard the Gospel as a result of that single, resolute decision!

The same holds true for each of us: If we are not yielded and open to God's will in our lives, if we are not willing to do whatever He may

ask of us, we'll never be all that God wants us to be or accomplish all that He wants us to do. That would be very sad, not only for us personally, but also for all those that the Lord wants us to reach and help with His love.

"But," you may argue, "I could never do anything great for the Lord, like Moody did! I'm no flaming evangelist or outstanding soul winner." Well, neither was Moody to begin with. He was just a poor farm boy and a below-average student that never made it past the fifth or sixth grade, who became bored with life on the farm and moved to the big city of Boston. After several weeks in the city, he set a new goal for himself: to become a big businessman and to make \$100,000 [the equivalent of today's millionaire]. Giving his life to God's service was the *last* thing on his mind!

In fact, when Moody was first saved, he was so completely ignorant of God's Word and truth that one church committee refused him membership. Some of his friends later said that of all the people they had known, they could hardly think of anyone who seemed less likely to ever become a strong Christian, much less to go on to do what he did for the Lord.

But when Dwight Moody found Jesus and realized how much the Lord had given for *him*, then he determined to give his life to the Lord and to do whatever God would ask of him. The Bible tells us, "Draw near to God, and *He* will draw near to *you*" (James 4:8). This is the secret of success of not just Moody,

but of *every* man or woman whom God has ever used to the full: They drew close to the Lord and relied solely upon Him and His power and His Word for guidance, strength, and inspiration.

Despite all of our faults, weaknesses, and inabilities, there really is no limit to what God can do with us if we will simply turn our lives over to Him and be willing to let Him make us what He wants us to be. Of course, that is a very big “if,” because we each have our own free will, and we can choose to either yield to Him and “seek first the kingdom of God” (Matthew 6:33), or we can seek first our *own* desires and plans and ways. The choice is ours, and whether or not we have His full blessing and His help will depend on whether or not we are willing to give Him first place in our lives.

Many Christians today seem to be more concerned about having God accept what they want to do than they are about accepting what God wants them to do. They’re trying to put their programs across to God, to get Him to sign His name and give His approval to *their* plans. The question they should be asking themselves is not, “Can I present my program to God for His signature?” or even, “Am I willing to be presented with God’s program for my signature?” but rather, “Am I willing to sign a blank sheet of paper and let God fill it in without my even knowing what His program is going to be?” That’s the real test of yieldedness!

If you’re willing to be what *God* wants you to be—not what you are, but what God wants you to be—*then* He can mightily use you.

God knows you can’t do it yourself. You have to turn your life, your mind, your heart, your everything over to the Lord and let *Him* make it for you! When you finally get to the point where you surrender to Him, where you let go of your own way and let God have His, then God has a chance to step in and do it—and He will! Just give Him a chance.

When you’re giving your all to the Lord, then you don’t need to worry about anything. Your entire life is in His hands, under His loving care, and the Devil has nothing that He can get a hold of or lay claim to. In fact, to really overcome the Devil, submission to God’s will is exactly what the Lord requires. “Submit to God. Resist the Devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

But as long as there are any areas of your life that you’re *not* willing to yield to the Lord, if there’s even one little part that you refuse to surrender, the enemy of your soul can use that against you. This is why God’s Word tells us to give *no* place to the Devil (Ephesians 4:27).

It’s like the story of Huddersfield: A rich landowner decided to buy the entire village of Huddersfield, and over time he bought every piece of land in the area—every piece, that is, except one little plot. One stubborn old farmer refused to sell his tiny piece of land, and nothing would change his mind. The landowner even offered the farmer much more money than his property was actually worth, but the farmer was so fond of his land that he absolutely refused to sell. When the landowner finally gave up, he tried to encourage himself by saying, “What difference does just one little plot of land make? I’ve

Before we can pray, “Lord, Thy kingdom come,” we must be willing to pray, “My kingdom go.”

To win, we must surrender.



bought everything else, so Huddersfield is *mine*. It belongs to me!”

But the stubborn old farmer overheard him and said, “Oh, no it doesn’t! *We* own Huddersfield. It belongs to you and me!”

Don’t let the Devil be able to say that of you to God! “Aha! Look, God! He’s yielded everything except this one little thing! Even though he belongs mostly to You, a little bit still belongs to me!”

To have *real* peace of heart and mind, you must commit your *all* to the Lord. Then, when your will is in perfect harmony with God’s will, He will bless you with His perfect peace. A dear old hymn says:

You have longed for sweet peace,  
And for faith to increase,  
And have earnestly, fervently prayed;  
But you *cannot* have rest or be perfectly blest  
Until *all* on the altar is laid.

Is your all on the altar of sacrifice laid?  
Your heart does the Spirit control?  
You can only be blest and have peace and sweet rest,  
As you yield Him your body and soul.

—Elisha A. Hoffman

So give your all to Jesus. Ask Him to take and use you for His glory, and He will—as much as you will let Him. “There is no limit!” You are His child, and He loves you and will always do His best to make you happy and useful to Him, so that you may bring others the same life and happiness that you have found in Jesus. Do your best for Jesus by yielding to Him today! ○

## Feeding Reading

### YIELDEDNESS

***To please the Lord, we need to learn to yield to Him and what He knows is best.***

Psalms 25:4–5

Psalms 143:10

Matthew 11:29–30

James 4:13–15

***Yieldedness is putting the Lord’s will above our own.***

Psalms 40:8

Matthew 6:10

John 4:34

John 6:38

Ephesians 6:6

***Yieldedness means obeying God even when it’s hard or it hurts.***

Jeremiah 42:6

Luke 22:42

Romans 12:1–2

1 Corinthians 15:31b

Galatians 2:20

***Only when we yield to the Lord is He able to work through us as He would like.***

John 15:4–5


***The more yielded we are to the Lord and His will, the happier we will be.***

Deuteronomy 4:40

Isaiah 1:19

John 13:17

John 15:10–11



**W**e need to learn to save the first place in our hearts and lives and time for Jesus. We belong to Him first of all, and the first place must belong to Him—for rest and prayer and fellowship with Jesus, and for feeding from His Word. We cannot do the Master's work without the Master's power—and to get it, we must spend time with the Master. Then we must let *Him* do the work through us. Many people give their needs and problems to the Lord in prayer, but then turn around and try to meet those needs and solve those problems on their own, without depending on the Lord to work on their behalf.

We ought to take a lesson from the oil lamp: It must be the oil that burns and not the wick, for if the wick burns without oil, it will destroy itself. We must immerse ourselves in Jesus and let *Him* burn to light the way, because if we try to do that ourselves, we'll soon burn out.

The flame of the lamp burns so beautifully and brightly and clearly when the *oil* burns, but it gets smoky and stinky when just the wick burns. The lamp's wick must be deeply immersed in the oil. Most of the wick is in the oil, and only a tiny tip of it is exposed to the air and the flame. That way, it's mostly oil that burns and very little of the wick—almost none. The oil flows freely through a wick that is deeply soaked in the oil. Then it is the oil that burns and not the wick, and it gives bright, pure, clear light.

"It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me" (Galatians 2:20). It is not I that burn, but Christ must burn within me. You can be a beautiful wick, but you'll burn black with too little oil. You must soak yourself in the oil, so *you* burn not, but He burns through you. Then you'll give pure light, smokeless light,

# THE Oil Lamp



clear light, beautiful light to all that are in the house (Matthew 5:15–16).

When I was a boy, they had beautiful kerosene lamps in every home, on every table. They had lovely glass bowls for the oil, so you could see their wicks and the level of the oil and knew when to replenish them. The lamp burned best when full of oil. When the level got low, too much of the wick would be out of the oil for the wick to be thoroughly soaked. Then the wick itself would begin to burn faster, and the lamp would give off smoke. We sometimes try too hard, work too hard, and try to do everything ourselves. To paraphrase the chorus of an old Gospel song:

Let go and let God have His wonderful way,  
Let go and let God have His way.  
He'll fill with His Spirit and burn day by day.  
Let go and let God have His way!

Most people don't know much about oil lamps anymore, but some-

thing that everyone can relate to is a water faucet. When you turn on a faucet, is the faucet “working”? No, it's not! The faucet is doing nothing. It's pressure *behind* the water that causes it to flow through the faucet. All you do is turn the handle on the faucet, and the water flows out with effortless ease. The faucet is just the channel, just a hole, to let the water out. You say the faucet's working? The faucet is *not* working. It's the water pressure that is doing the work. The faucet is just letting it flow. The power isn't in the faucet; the power comes from the gravity feed or pump. The pump or the weight of the water in a tank creates pressure in the water pipe, so all you have to do is turn the tap to release it, and out it flows. You're like the faucet; the Lord is the water pressure. Just open the faucet and let it flow!

So stop trying to do the work yourself, and let God do it. Let go and let God! Just let the Lord through. Let the oil burn. Let the water flow. Let the *Lord* do it! ○

### WHY STRUGGLE?

Robert G. LeTourneau (1888–1969) invented and manufactured the world's first large earthmoving equipment. He was also a dedicated Christian. One evening he needed to design a piece of machinery that was supposed to be built the next day, but some of the young people from his church were also counting on him to join them in one of their outreach projects. LeTourneau later wrote: “The Lord and I had quite a struggle while I was trying to decide what to do. Although I could not understand how I was going to get the plan drawn for the next morning, I went with the young people and we had a profitable time. I returned home about ten o'clock. Up to that time I had been unable to make a single plan. I sat down at the drafting board, and in about five minutes the outline and plan was as plain as it could be. What is more, the little piece of machinery designed that night has been the key machine in all that I have been building since. It pays to put God first!”

# Interpreting BIBLE PROPHECY

## PART ONE

*"Rightly dividing  
the Word of truth"  
(2 Timothy 2: 15).*

*By David Brandt Berg*

Nothing about God's overall plan for the world, as revealed through Bible prophecy, is going to change. The major events of the Endtime, the major participants, and the final outcome—those are all settled. "Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled in Heaven" (Psalm 119:89). "I am the Lord, I do not change" (Malachi 3:6). God doesn't change, His Word doesn't change, and His prophetic plans for the world are not going to change.

There are certain specifics that we can be sure of: We know that (1) Jesus is coming back, (2) that following His return all those who have received Jesus as their Savior are going to (3) receive their eternal bodies, (4) be transported to Heaven (the Rapture) where they will (5) enjoy the Marriage Feast of the Lamb in that gorgeous Heavenly City, while (6) there's hell on Earth and the Wrath of God is being poured out below on the defiant, rebellious, and wicked followers of the Antichrist. We know that is going to be followed by (7) the Battle of Armageddon (the total defeat of the Antichrist and his regime), which will be followed by (8) the Millennium (the thousand-year reign of Christ on Earth). We also know (9) the Millennium will end with the Battle of Gog and Magog (another war between the godly and the ungodly), and will be followed by (10) a total restoration of the earth's surface (the New Heaven and New Earth). All this is very clear and very definite. They cannot be doubted or denied, because it's all very clear right there in the Bible.

These are events we know, and the closer we get to these things, the more specific and exact our knowledge of these and related events will be. Many of the details regarding future events are not yet clear, but we *are* told what things to watch for, key points on the future timeline, from which we will then be able to accurately determine the sequence and timing of other major

activated issue 20

We are told  
what things  
to watch for  
... we will  
then be able  
to accurately deter-  
mine the  
sequence  
and timing  
of other  
major  
events yet to  
come.

events yet to come.

So what we need to know first as we study the Word of God are the things that are unchangeable—the established facts that are clearly stated in the Scriptures. These make up the foundation for further interpretation of Bible prophecy. You have to know these fundamentals of Bible prophecy before you can attempt to understand what *might* happen, and how and when. (*Editor's note: Most of these foundation facts of Bible prophecy are explained in the booklet The Future Foretold, also from Aurora Production.*)

---

### **Blessed Are Those Who Understand**

---

Bible scholars are in general agreement on the interpretation of prophecies concerning past events. There can be little question about these because the events have already happened. Empires have come and gone and other events have happened, just like God said they would, sometimes hundreds of years beforehand. It's not hard to understand or teach *fulfilled* Bible prophecy; it's already happened, so the interpretation is obvious. But prophecies become a lot less obvious when they deal with events in the *future*. This is where most differences in doctrines and interpretations come up.

But just because some points are unclear or controversial is no reason to not try to figure them out. God's Word says of those reading the book of Revelation, "Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it" (Revelation 1:3 NIV)—and the same goes for any other prophetic messages found in the Bible. It takes effort to try to understand Bible prophecy, to compare Scripture with Scripture till you arrive at the most plausible interpretations, but God says you will be blessed if you do.

You don't *have* to know all the prophetic details of the future; they'll

happen whether you know them or not, don't worry! But it's good to try to know as much as you can so you'll know what's going on and will be able to warn and instruct others.

---

### **Basic Guidelines**

---

There are a few basic rules to interpreting God's Word. The first is: Interpret it literally, if possible. If it can mean exactly what it says, then it probably doesn't even have to be interpreted. Don't try to read into it some unusual, undercover significance or meaning. If a Bible verse or passage makes sense literally, take it literally.

But if it doesn't sound reasonable or logical, or it just seems like it's virtually impossible to interpret it literally, it may be symbolic. Study its context thoroughly to see if and how the symbolism is explained. Take the image and the beasts in the book of Daniel, for example: They are all interpreted by the angel or the man that appeared to Daniel, or by Daniel himself. We're told what each of these things represent, so those passages are obviously symbolic and we're given the interpretations.

If you can't find the explanation of a passage in its context, then try looking elsewhere in the Bible for where the same terms are used. See how they're used and what they mean in other places.

Most important, when you come across mysteries in the Word, let the Author Himself explain them to you. "Call to Me," He tells us in Jeremiah 33:3, "and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." Ask God to lead you step by step to the right interpretation. Of course there will be some things that God *won't* reveal to you just yet, because they're not close enough that you need to know them. But keep asking and seeking and knocking, and when the time is right, He will help you understand. ○



# Face Value

**T**o say that Mick was a rough-looking character would be an understatement. He had long unkempt hair and beard, was missing fingers and teeth, wore numerous rings in his ears and elsewhere, and was covered in tattoos. My wife, Marianne, had gone to a local hospital to visit a friend. Mick and his girlfriend had been taken to the same hospital following a motorcycle accident in which they both suffered horrific injuries.

Marianne struck up a conversation, hoping to encourage Mick and point him to God in his time of suffering and distress. Mick was about to have his right leg amputated at the knee. Before the end of that first visit, Marianne gave Mick a “To You, with Love” gospel tract and prayed for him.

The next time Marianne and I visited, Mick was recovering from the amputation. We found him sit-



Now happy in Jesus. Family member Michael, left, with Mick and his dog, Tiny. Yes, Michael is also wheelchair-bound—the result of suffering spinal cord damage in a diving accident as a teenager.

He had been in almost every jail in Australia, he said matter-of-factly.

ting in his bed, broken in spirit. Moments later, a hospital case-worker brought news that further devastated Mick: His girlfriend's parents had gotten an injunction to keep Mick from seeing her. He broke down, and we tried to comfort him.

Then Mick told us about his life. He had been born very hard of hearing in both ears. Some years later, he had been blinded in one eye by a bit of flying glass from a shattered windshield. He had left home at the age of 14, and had been jailed 17 times since then. He had been in almost every jail in Australia, he said matter-of-factly. His mother had committed suicide, and the rest of his family wanted little or no contact with him. We witnessed to him and left him some more Christian literature to read.

Circumstances prevented us from visiting Mick again in the hospital. We wrote to him, but never heard back. Two years passed.

Then one day Mick popped up in Marianne's thoughts. And then, amazingly, he phoned two days later. He had found a letter that Marianne had written him over two years before, reread it, and decided to try to call her at the number she'd given in the letter. He had been in jail for nearly the whole time since we last saw him, he explained, as he had been at fault in the motorcycle accident and the judge had thrown the book at him.

We were glad to be back in touch with Mick, and he seemed to appreciate the interest and concern we showed him.

We invited him to dinner at our place. Around the table, Mick told us more about his past—his heavy drug use, his times in jail, and riding with a motorcycle gang. He was a real character, and made no attempt to cover up. What you saw was what you got! Eventually the conversation got deeper and turned to religion. Mick said that he believed there was a God.

When it was time for Mick to go, we asked him if he would like to pray and ask Jesus into his heart. Mick thought for a moment, and then replied, "Yeah, OK." Then Mick prayed for Jesus to forgive him for his past wrongs, and to be his Lord and Savior.

We continue to see Mick, and to try to help him all we can, most importantly by helping him to know the Lord's unfailing, unconditional love is for him, regardless of his past.

"Man looks at the outward appearance," the Bible tells us, "but the Lord looks at the heart" (1 Samuel 16:7). God looked beyond Mick's rough exterior, his criminal record, and all the hurt he had caused himself and others, and found a repentant heart crying out for love. ○

## THE SECRET OF SUCCESS: God's will plus our prayers

Just because something is the Lord's will for us does not automatically mean that everything concerning that situation is going to go just our way. Why are we told repeatedly in the Bible to pray, if everything is all settled and everything is going to automatically be fine? We would just be wasting our time, if that were the case.

He says, "You do not have because you do not ask" (James 4:2). What a sad thing to realize that sometimes the Lord can't give us what we need because we have failed to pray. We can be doing His will, but we still have to pray—and often keep on praying—for His blessing while we're doing it. We have to remember that those two things have to go together. The Lord can fulfill His promises only if we do our part.

—Maria David

### Answers to your questions

**Q**: Things haven't been going well for me lately. I've been looking for a new job and have submitted a number of applications, but I still haven't found a new position. Now I'm wondering if maybe it's not God's will for me to find a new and better job. Got any advice?

**A**: Many people have the attitude that whatever happens is God's will, so they should just resign themselves to fate. "There's really nothing I can do, so I should just try to accept things the way they are." Such an attitude is called *fatalism*.

## fatalism

—TO PRAY OR NOT TO PRAY

When fatalists fail in some project or task, instead of getting up and trying again—or better yet, praying for God to help them to succeed, and then trying again—they just lie there in the spot where they have fallen down and accept defeat. "Oh, well," they say, "it must have been God's will that I failed." But when we get to Heaven, we're going to find out that a lot of bad things that happened were not God's fault, but they were our fault because we didn't pray—or

didn't *keep* praying. When we pray, things will happen and things will be different. They may not always happen immediately or just the way we would like or expect, but God *will* answer prayer! As the prophet Isaiah said, bad things were happening to Israel because people weren't praying: "There is no one who calls on Your name, who stirs himself up to take hold of You" (Isaiah 64:7). If our prayers can have an effect and change things, then if things *aren't* changed, it's





# A LOST AND LONELY WORLD

So many people today are lost, lonely, downtrodden, weak, and weary. There are those who are trampled on—the poor, the persecuted, the hungry; those who are victims of war and crime and exploitation; those who nobody wants and for whom nobody cares; those who have so little in the way of material goods, who lack even the basic necessities.

Then there are others who do have material goods and who appear to “have it together” in the eyes of others, but who are lost and lonely prisoners of their own selfish desires. They are weary and heavy-laden with problems, stress, fears, and phobias. There are those who wear a smile, yet ache inside; those who are engulfed in a sea of emptiness; those who suffer from pain, guilt, bitterness, and condemnation; those who feel remorse over the past or fear the future—so many lost and desperate folks in the world today!

There is a great need for His love to shine through. You, dear Christian, must hold up the light for all to see. If you will shine His light on people, He’ll do all the rest. He’ll cause it to accomplish His purpose in their lives and hearts and minds. Let others see Jesus in you!

—David Brandt Berg

often our fault for not praying.

There are times, it’s true, that God’s will *is* set about certain things. At times like that, we have to trust that He knows best. But this is not always the case. Many times, when situations don’t change for the better it’s not because our prayers couldn’t change things, but rather because we lack the faith and conviction and determination to persevere in prayer, to really fight in the spirit for whatever it is we desire or need.

Jesus once taught this principle through the following parable: “Suppose you went to a friend’s house at midnight, wanting to borrow three loaves of bread. You would shout up to him, ‘A

friend of mine has just arrived for a visit and I’ve nothing to give him to eat.’ He would call down from his bedroom, ‘Please don’t ask me to get up. The door is locked for the night and we are all in bed. I just can’t help you this time.’ But I’ll tell you this—though he won’t do it as a friend, if you keep knocking long enough, he will get up and give you everything you want—just because of your persistence. And so it is with prayer—keep on asking and you will keep on getting; keep on looking and you will keep on finding; knock and the door will be opened. Everyone who asks, receives; all who seek, find; and the door is opened to everyone who knocks” (Luke 11:5–10 TLB).

If you truly need something and you are doing your best to obey God and are convinced that whatever you need or desire is within His will, then *pray* for it! “This is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him” (1 John 5:14–15). Be persistent! Keep praying for God to help you or give you what you need, and He will! “Seek and you *shall* find.”—And if the Lord doesn’t answer your prayers right away, don’t give up. Just keep knocking on Heaven’s door with your prayers and “the door will be opened”! ○



# From Jesus with Love

## Receive to Reflect

You are as a crystal that not only reflects light, but warmth—warmth of spirit, warmth of understanding, warmth of comfort, warmth of love. But you must remember that crystals have no light or warmth of their own; they only reflect what they receive. Likewise, it is not possible for you to pour forth the love, understanding, and comfort of God without first being filled with Me. The warmth and comfort and understanding and the love of God come only from abiding in Me and My Words, and letting them and Me abide in you.

You must become full to overflowing, so My Spirit may pour through you. How can you do this? By loving Me, by seeking Me, by drinking in My Words and My Spirit and My love, by believing, by yielding, and by doing what I tell you to do.

So come to Me and learn to rest in My arms, to fellowship with Me, to receive of Me, that you may be able to pour forth to others, to fill their needs. Come, My precious crystal, and absorb My light and warmth, so My light and warmth may flow upon others, through you.

—Jesus