

CHANGE YOUR LIFE. CHANGE YOUR WORLD.

activated

Vol 1 • Issue 3

CONNECTING WITH GOD

It's easier than you think

Streams That Never Run Dry

Promises from God
that will change your life

The Future Foretold

More signs of the end





PERSONALLY SPEAKING

When you stop to think about it, our modern means of communication would probably be totally incomprehensible to someone living only a few generations ago. Yet without a second thought we pick up the telephone and talk with someone thousands of miles away, or send a letter via e-mail to someone on the other side of the world, which we're confident they'll receive in a matter of minutes.

Although the concept is probably as inconceivable to those who have never tried it as the telephone or the Internet would be to our ancestors, connecting with Jesus through prayer is just as simple, just as real, and just as practical as picking up the phone and calling your closest friend.—And you'll never hear a busy signal, you'll never get an answering machine, and there are no long-distance charges!

In this issue of *Activated* we've got some great articles on prayer—our “hotline to Heaven” and channel of communication with Jesus. We would also be happy to pray for you or a loved one, if you need some prayer support. Just let us know what to pray for, and we'll bring your request before the Lord along with you. Jesus promised, “If two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in Heaven.”¹

Until next time, may God bless and keep you and yours!

Keith Phillips
For *Activated*

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¹Matthew 18:19

Connecting WITH GOD

GOD'S IDEA of prayer is not a ritual, but loving and lively communication between the best of friends.

But sad to say, many people think they can't talk to God like that. Some think they're not religious enough, not righteous enough, or not spiritual enough. Some think He's too big—too far above them. Some think He's too busy to be concerned about them and their problems, which to Him must seem awfully petty. Some feel unworthy, not good enough. Some feel guilty or ashamed about things they've done. Some are even afraid of Him. If only they understood how differently God sees it!

God wants to have a personal relationship with each of us, and He wants it to be the deepest, most meaningful, most fulfilling and rewarding, most natural part of our lives. Now that's not to say He wants to take away from the other relationships and activities that we enjoy and consider important. To the contrary. He wants to be a part of all that. He wants to make things easier, He wants to give them greater meaning, and He wants to enjoy them with us. In a word, He wants to make our lives even better. He wants to add a wonderful new dimension to all that we do—the dimension of His loving presence.

How do we establish such a relationship, especially when we feel small and unspiritual and unworthy? How do we make that connection? Simple: through His Son, Jesus.

None of us can really grasp how great and wonderful God our Father is, because He



and His Spirit are greater than the whole universe. He's so beyond our comprehension that He had to make Someone who could show us His love, Someone we could experience, Someone who could bring God down to the level of our limited human understanding. So He sent us His Son, Jesus.

Jesus has been with God from the very beginning, yet He also lived on earth in human form and experienced every joy and sorrow that we do.¹ Jesus has been here, so He can understand us and be the link between us and God.²

We can get personal with Jesus. He even told us to ask Him into our hearts: "Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with Me."³ He's the One we can have direct, personal contact with. He is the One we can approach God through. If you have prayed to receive Jesus as your Savior, you already have that connection. ✝

(EXCERPTED FROM *PRAYER POWER FROM THE GET ACTIVATED SERIES*.)

¹See John 1:1-3,14; Hebrews 4:15

²See 1 Timothy 2:5

³Revelation 3:20

STREAMS THAT NEVER RUN DRY

BY VIRGINIA BRANDT BERG

I CAN NEVER forget the day when it dawned upon my consciousness as a reality, a fact, that the promises of the Bible were practical, that they could actually be applied to my everyday needs. It was a revelation to me that God meant exactly what He said in the numerous promises given in His Word, and that He would fulfill them to the very letter if I, in faith, would reach out and claim them in a definite manner.

God's Word said that I had been given "exceedingly great and precious promises," that through them I might be "partaker of the divine nature."¹ But to my limited understanding, those promises were only beautiful scripture language, never meant to be taken seriously or applied practically.

I was like the very ignorant woman many years ago who had lived most of her life hidden way back in the highlands of Scotland, and who was so poor that her church had to pay her rent for her.

One day when her pastor brought the monthly rent, he said, "Mrs. McKintrick, why is it that your boy does not support you? I understand he has a very good job in Australia, and that he is a good boy who loves you dearly. Is this not the case?"

"Oh yes," said the mother, "and he never forgets me. Every week he writes me the most loving letter."

Curious to know more about a son who could so love his mother and yet leave her without support, the pastor asked to see some of the letters.

Soon the woman returned with two packages. "These are his letters," she said, handing him the first package, "and these are the pretty pictures he

Little did I realize just how literally God wanted me to take His promises

sends me with every letter. They fit nicely in the letter, and it shows he thinks about me."

"A picture in every letter." The pastor was more curious than ever. "May I see them also?"

"Oh, surely," she answered. "Some are of a man's head, some of a man sitting on a horse, and some have the king's picture on them. See, this one here has the King of England. Long live the king!"

"Long live your son!" said the astonished pastor. "Why, my dear friend, do you know that you are a rich woman? This is money. You have wealth here! And to think of how you have suffered and done without, when right here in the house all the time you had riches that you thought were just pretty pictures!"

This was surely my trouble when it came to the promises in God's Word. I thought they were just pretty pictures, just beautiful language. Little did I realize just how literally God wanted me to take His promises!

In God's Word you and I have been given exceedingly great and precious promises—and there are hundreds of them. Limitless resources! Streams that never run dry.

¹2 Peter 1:4



EXPECTANCY

Christians are divided into two types: those who pray and really expect something to happen, and those who just pray and do not expect anything to happen.

Prayer is first a means to an end, a connecting link between our human needs and God's divine resources. Prayer is not meant to be a "pious reverie" that has only a subconscious effect on us. Prayer is an intensely practical thing, as real, as uniform, as genuine as using the telephone. And the party at the other end of the line—God Himself—says to us, "Ask and it will be given to you. You do not have because you do not ask."²

ACCEPTANCE

It is our part to do the taking, His to do the giving. The Scripture says, "Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them."³ When we ask in prayer, then is the time to believe—and if we do, we will receive.

"Now 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."⁴ It does not say we are going to have, but it says we have. We have it now, not because any of our senses testify to it, but because God has said so.

"Faith is the substance of things hoped for and the evidence of things not seen."⁵ Faith is believing that God is going to answer, even if you can't see the answer yet. It is not what we think about it, but what God says about it that counts. It is not what we feel, but what faith claims.

APPROPRIATING FAITH

Attempting to teach the principle of appropriating faith to the members of his church, a preacher once offered his expensive pocket watch to a group of boys sitting on the front row.

"Sonny, would you like to have this watch?" he asked the oldest boy.

"You can't fool me! I know you don't mean it," answered the boy.

The question was repeated to the next boy, and again and again down the line. Each time came a similar answer.

At last the preacher offered the watch to a little fellow about five years old, who was sitting on the edge of his seat, his bright, eager eyes focused intently on the preacher's face.

"Little man, would you like ...?" That was enough. A chubby hand quickly grabbed the watch and instantly pocketed the gift. While wiggling back on the seat, the boy said with a satisfied, grown-up sigh that it was just what he had been wanting all the time.

After the service, the other boys crowded around the preacher and protested. "How were we

²Matthew 7:7; James 4:2

³Mark 11:24

⁴1 John 5:14-15

⁵Hebrews 11:1

supposed to know you really meant it?” “That’s just the kind of watch I was wanting.” “If you really meant it, why didn’t you put it in my hand, or ask me again, so I’d know?”

Only the youngest boy had appropriating faith, and he put his faith into action.

ACTION

Many people believe the promises of God, but in sort of an impersonal, indefinite way: “Oh yes, they apply in general, but not specifically to me or this situation.” Whereas the person who gets results is he who, when he has asked God for something, acts on his faith and proceeds as if he possesses. He takes

When faith goes to market, it takes a basket along



God at His Word on some promise and counts it done. This is often called the “stand of faith.”

A splendid illustration of this is found in the Bible passage where Jesus told the lepers who came to Him for healing to go show themselves to the priest for cleansing. Jesus hadn’t healed them yet, but the scripture says that, “As they went, they were healed.” As they put their faith into action and obeyed, even though they hadn’t yet seen the answer to their prayers, God met them.⁶ When we put forth the effort of a believing will, God honors that step and meets us. As someone once said, “When faith goes to market, it takes a basket along.”

THE STAND OF FAITH

One time I had prayed and done everything else that I knew to do, yet there was no answer to my prayer. I had come to the end of myself and could do nothing more. Why didn’t God answer?

As I turned the pages of my Bible and prayed, my eyes fell on these very words: “Having done all, stand.”⁷ Immediately I saw the truth. I had been virtually blaming the Lord for not answering my prayer, when I had not been doing my part at all. I hadn’t taken the stand of faith.

So I began to praise and thank Him that the answer was on the way. Within six hours I saw that answer, but it was no more mine then than when I had first taken the stand of faith. It had already been mine by faith. We see because we have believed, not believe because we have seen.

Faith is not some great thing, not some glorious feeling, not some wonderful sensation, as many think, but it is simply taking God at His Word. Just as your hand reaches out and takes ahold of something, so faith is the spiritual hand that reaches out and takes ahold of the promises of God and appropriates them.

So make the connection with God today through prayer, bringing your requests to Him and claiming His promises. He never fails! ✠

(EXCERPTED FROM VIRGINIA BRANDT BERG’S BOOK OF THE SAME TITLE.)

⁶Luke 17:12-14

⁷Ephesians 6:13

THE MISSED BUS

BY BEN AND REBECCA WATERS,
CHRISTIAN VOLUNTEERS IN ECUADOR

"I've missed my bus again," sighed Miguel, who was working later than usual.

Just then Pablo came into the office. "I thought you went home a while ago," Miguel said. "Why did you come back?"

"I forgot my Bible," Pablo answered, "and now I see that I've missed the bus too!"

Just then they heard the screech of brakes and tires, followed by a loud crash. There had been a serious accident!

Miguel and Pablo were shocked to learn what had happened. The brakes had failed on a freight truck loaded with iron as the truck started down a steep hill. The driver lost control and it crashed into the very bus that the two of them usually rode! Twelve people died and 35 were badly injured.

Every day, Miguel's wife Maria prays for her husband's safety, and this day God had miraculously answered!



PRAYER FOR THE DAY

Dear Jesus,
Thank You that You understand my heart. Thank You that I never have to worry about whether You understand or not. When I feel that I can't explain properly and I fumble over my words, or when I can't find the right words to express what I really want to say, thank You that I can just rest in Your arms and know that You make sense out of these words I speak. Thank You, Jesus, that I don't always even have to talk to You in words. You just understand everything I'm trying to say as I pour out my heart to You.

Leaning

WHEN I WAS a child we played a game in which we would each stand straight as a board and then try to fall backward into the strong arms of an adult who was waiting to catch us. It's strange, but no matter how many times I'd seen it done or tried to do it myself, it was still difficult to keep from bending my knees or doing something else at the last split second to try to break my fall. Not chickening out took a certain "letting go" that went contrary to my natural reasoning and reflexes. It took complete trust in the one who was catching me.

In the Christian life we often use the expression "leaning on Jesus," or, as the old hymn goes, "leaning on the everlasting arms." The picture is of one leaning on Jesus for support while passing through life's difficulties. I've done a lot of "leaning" in my life. And I have found Jesus to be strong and stable, full of strength and comfort. I leaned hard on Him through several long and difficult years when my husband battled a life-threatening illness. I leaned harder still when I walked the difficult road of cancer myself. But there was never a time that He wasn't there to lean on. Even when the road was too difficult for me, He lifted me up and carried me.

There recently came another time in my life that was so difficult it left me despairing again.

BY MISTY KAY

The night had closed so dark around me that I couldn't see Jesus or feel His presence. I knew He was there, somewhere, but why did He now seem distant from me? I pictured myself reaching out, grasping at air, searching for His love and strength. Then, in answer to my deepest prayer, I heard His tender voice tell me, "The reason you haven't been able to see or reach Me is that I'm not in front of you. I'm right behind you. My strong arms are around you, holding you from behind. All you have to do is lay your head back on My shoulder and rest. Don't reach. Don't struggle. Don't try so hard to find My presence. Just lean back and rest in My everlasting arms."

The peace that filled my heart was so complete that it entered every fiber of my being. During the difficult months that followed, I leaned on Jesus like never before. It's hard to explain, but it became a different type of leaning, somehow more complete.

I spread my
arms wide open,
leaned back, and
fell with total
abandonment,
total surrender,
total trust

Then my circumstances became more difficult still. I developed a chronic, debilitating condition, and at times pain took its toll. It was during this low time, when I had no strength of my own, that I heard Jesus' gentle voice again, telling me, "Fall back! Just trust Me completely and fall back into My arms—like the game you played as a child."

The experience seemed very real as it played out in slow motion in my mind. I felt myself standing in the middle of a blustery storm, atop a mountain of woes. I spread my arms wide open, leaned back, and fell with total abandonment, total surrender, total trust. Slowly I fell out of the realm of trouble and storm and into Jesus! I felt the soft landing envelop me with love. I found myself floating in a beautiful, dark stillness, dotted by tiny stars. I would call it space, but this place was not empty. It was alive, and the very nature of it filled me with courage and faith.

I felt it lift me up, up, up, high above the mountains. I felt the fresh, cool wind blow in my face. Riding on the wings of the wind, I was flying! I thought of the verse, "Those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles."¹ I felt joy return to me, and my spirit receive new strength. It was refreshing and exhilarating!

Then I heard His voice speak again. "This is your place of freedom. When your body is held captive on a bed of suffering, let your spirit fly. Just fall. Fall on Me. Let yourself go and fall."

Suddenly "leaning" took on a whole new meaning. In falling I learned to completely let go and fall—not onto but into the everlasting arms. What a wonderful experience!

Science with all its knowledge and experience hasn't come up with a pill for true inner peace that transcends any circumstances. There is no magic potion for a soul lost in hopelessness, no tonic for a spirit crushed under the weight of an unbearable burden.

I have been there, and I have found that peace. Though my outward condition remains unchanged, inwardly I have been healed—healed of an inner pain more difficult to bear than pain itself. I am free! ✨

MISTY KAY IS A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY INTERNATIONAL IN TAIWAN.

¹Isaiah 40:31

Jesus and Jim



THE STORY IS TOLD of a certain minister who was disturbed to see a shabbily-dressed old man go into his church at noon every day and come out again after a few minutes. What could he be doing? He informed the caretaker and asked him to question the old man. After all, the place contained valuable furnishings.

“I go to pray,” the old man said in reply to the caretaker’s questioning.

“Come, come now,” said the other, “you are never long enough in the church to pray.”

“Well, you see,” the old man went on, “I don’t know how to pray a long prayer, but every day at twelve o’clock I just come and say, ‘Jesus, it’s Jim.’ I wait a minute and then come away. Even though it’s just a little prayer, I think He hears me.”

When Jim was injured some time later and taken to the hospital, he had a wonderful influence on the ward. Grumbling patients became cheerful, and often the ward would ring with laughter.

“Well, Jim,” said a nurse to him one day, “the men say you are responsible for this change in the ward. They say you are always happy.”

“That I am! I can’t help being happy. You see, it’s my visitor. Every day he makes me happy.”

“Your visitor?” The nurse was puzzled. She had noticed that Jim’s chair was always empty during visiting hours, for he had no relatives. “Your visitor? But when does he come?”

“Every day,” Jim replied, with a light in his eye. “Yes, every day at twelve o’clock He comes and stands at the foot of my bed. He smiles and says, ‘Jim, it’s Jesus.’” ✦

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

WHAT IS PRAYER?

Prayer is simply communicating with Jesus, just like you would talk to a good friend. You don’t have to follow any routine for Him to hear you. To be effective, prayer doesn’t depend on the position of your body, but the position of your heart.

Just tell Jesus what’s on your mind. He loves to listen to you. He’ll either solve the problems that you face, or give you the strength to make it through them.

Lots can be said about prayer, but here are a few tips that help get results:

- 1) Be wholehearted: The intensity with which you request God’s help is often reflected in the answer you receive.
- 2) Be specific: Tell Jesus exactly what the problem is and what you want Him to do about it.
- 3) Claim God’s promises: God has made many promises in the Bible that He will keep in answer to prayer. He wants you to hold Him to them.
- 4) Thank God for answering: Thank Him for the answer, even before it arrives. Praise moves God to act on your behalf.

How much does a prayer weigh?



HOW MUCH does a prayer weigh? The only man I ever knew who tried to weigh one still does not know.

Once he thought he did. That was when he owned a little grocery store on New York's West Side. It was the week before Christmas of 1918 when a tired-looking woman came into the store and asked him for enough food to make a Christmas dinner for her children. He asked her how much she could afford to spend.

"My husband was killed in the war," the woman answered. "I have nothing to offer but a little prayer."

The man confesses that he was not very sentimental in those days. A grocery store could not be run like a breadline.

"Write it down," he said with a huff, and turned to attend to other customers.

To his surprise, the woman pulled a piece of paper from her pocket, unfolded it, and handed it to him over the counter. "I did that during the night, while sitting up with my sick baby."

The grocer took the paper before he could recover from his surprise, and then regretted having done so. What would he do with it? What could he say?

Then an idea came to him. Without even reading the prayer, he placed the paper on one side of his old-fashioned weight scales and said, "We shall see how much food this is worth."

To his astonishment, the scale would not go down when he put a loaf of bread on the other side. And it still didn't go down as he added more food—anything he could lay his hands on quickly, because people were watching him. His face turned redder the more embarrassed and flustered he became.

Finally he said, "Well, that's all the scales will hold. Here's a bag." And he turned away.

With a little sob, the woman took the bag and started packing the food, only stopping to dry her eyes on her sleeve from time to time. The grocer tried not to look, but he had given her a big bag and couldn't help but see that it wasn't quite full. Without another word, he tossed a large cheese down the counter. Had he let down his defenses enough to actually look at the woman, he would have been rewarded with a timid smile and look of deepest gratitude.

When the woman had gone, the grocer examined his scales, which had worked fine for the previous customer. He never figured out how or when it had happened, but they were broken.

The grocer had never seen that woman before, and he never saw her again. But for the rest of his life he remembered her better than any other woman that ever came into his shop, and he always kept that slip of paper with her simple prayer: "Please, Lord, give us this day our daily bread." ❀

—AUTHOR UNKNOWN

ANSWERS TO YOUR QUESTIONS

Q: I've been told that prayer is a sure thing—that when I pray, God will answer. Why then do some of my prayers seem to go unanswered?

A: EACH OF US has experienced disappointment when things didn't work out the way we wanted them to, and if we had *prayed* for that outcome that didn't happen, we were doubly disappointed—first because we didn't get what we wanted, and second because it seemed God had failed us.

Even when there are obvious, logical reasons why something didn't go our way, we wonder why God didn't make it happen anyway. After all, if He's God, He can do anything, and if He loves us as much as the Bible says He does, why didn't He? At times like that, it's easy to hold it against God for not answering prayer.

Of course, it's not right to question God in that accusing sort of way, as though we know better than He does. It *is* good to ask Him where things went wrong, however, because that will help get better results next time.

The first thing to bear in mind is that God never fails to do what's best for everyone involved, and He never goes back on the promises He has given in the Bible. We, on the other hand, can and do fail sometimes. Also, because He's given us free will, God is often limited in how He can answer our prayers by the choices we or others make.

When prayers seem to go unanswered, some good questions to ask yourself are:

- ☞ Was my request motivated by unselfish love and concern for everyone involved?
- ☞ Did I believe and claim promises from God's Word?
- ☞ Did I put feet to my faith by doing all I could to bring about the desired result?
- ☞ Was God unable to do what I asked because of the choices of others?
- ☞ Was it perhaps not yet God's time to answer, or not His plan for me?
- ☞ Is it possible that God's "other" answer will prove better in the long run? 🙏



GOD'S DELAYS ARE NOT DENIALS

GOD ALWAYS ANSWERS our prayers, but not always right away or in just the way we expect Him to. Sometimes He says yes, sometimes He says no, and sometimes He says wait. There are a number of factors that affect the process, including you and your situation, God and His will, and the situations of others involved. You don't control the outcome completely, others don't control it completely, and God has specifically limited Himself not to control it completely, which is, of course, one reason why prayers don't always get answered right away. But when the conditions are right for the result God knows is best, He will answer. So never doubt for a moment that God is going to answer. Trust Him and thank Him for the answer—even if you don't see it immediately!

—DAVID BRANDT BERG

FEEDING READING

PRAYER POWER

**Praise and thank the Lord
before presenting your request
to Him.**

Psalms 95:2
Psalms 100:4
Philippians 4:6

**Be specific and ask for what
you need.**

Matthew 7:7–8
Matthew 21:22
John 16:24
James 4:2b

Pray in Jesus' name.

John 14:13–14
John 16:23

**Prayer also includes you
listening to God.**

Numbers 9:8
1 Samuel 3:9–10
1 Kings 19:11–12

Pray in faith.

Matthew 21:21–22
Mark 11:24

Romans 4:21
Hebrews 11:6
James 1:5–7

Obey God and do His will.

John 9:31
John 15:7
1 John 3:22

**Submit yourself to God and
pray according to His will.**

Psalms 143:10
Matthew 6:10
Luke 22:42
John 5:30
1 John 5:14

Pray humbly.

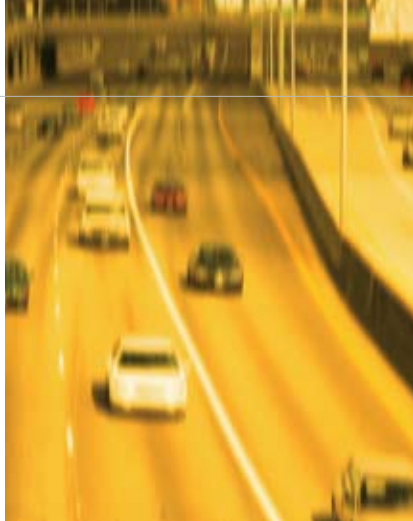
Daniel 9:18b
Luke 18:10–14
James 4:6

**Remind God of His promises
when praying.**

Genesis 32:6–12
Nehemiah 1:4–11

I can take my telescope and look millions of miles into space; but I can lay my telescope aside, go into my room and shut the door, and while in earnest prayer I see more of Heaven and get closer to God than I can when assisted by all the telescopes and material agencies on earth. —Isaac Newton

The moment you wake up each morning, all your wishes and hopes for the day rush at you like wild animals. And the first job each morning consists in shoving it all back; in listening to that other voice, taking that other point of view, letting that other, larger, stronger, quieter life come flowing in. —C.S. Lewis



THE DIFFERENCE

I got up early one morning
And rushed right into the day.
I had so much to accomplish
That I didn't have time to pray.

Troubles just tumbled about me,
And heavier came each task.
"Why doesn't God help me?"
I wondered.
He answered, "You didn't ask."

I tried to come into God's presence.
I used all my keys at the lock.
God gently and lovingly chided,
"Why, child, you didn't knock."

I wanted to see joy and beauty,
But the day toiled on, gray and bleak.
I called on the Lord for the reason—
He said, "You didn't seek."

I woke up early this morning,
And paused before entering the day.
I had so much to accomplish
That I had to take time to pray.

—GRACE L. NAESSENS

Signs of the end

THE FUTURE FORETOLD, PART 2

BY MICHAEL ROY AND SCOTT MACGREGOR

WHEN JESUS' DISCIPLES asked Him what would be the sign of His return and the end of the world as we know it, He answered by revealing not one sign but many, including the four covered in this second of five installments of *The Future Foretold*.

“MOMMY, I’M HUNGRY!” “And there will be famines...”¹

Extreme poverty remains a daily reality for more than 1 billion people who subsist on less than US\$1 a day. Hunger and malnutrition are almost equally pervasive: More than 800 million people have too little to eat to meet their daily energy needs.²

All of this is compounded by a profound climate change that is affecting every part of the world, or soon will. Sir John Houghton, a British climate expert and co-chair of the Scientific Assessment Working Group of the Intergovernmental Panel on

Climate Change, warns: “Forests will die, diseases like malaria will spread, and starving refugees will wander across borders as weather becomes more extreme.³ The impacts of global warming are such that I have no hesitation in describing it as a ‘weapon of mass destruction.’”⁴

World population has more than doubled in the last 50 years and is expected to reach 8.5 billion by the year 2030. As the number of people increases, per capita availability of water and arable land decreases. The control of water resources is predicted to become a major cause of armed conflict in the future.⁵

A PLAGUED PLANET “And there will be pestilences...”

The severity and frequency with which “pestilences” (epidemics of highly infectious diseases) now strike is also alarming.

A 1983 medical textbook declared infectious diseases “more easily prevented and more easily cured” than any other major group of disorders,⁶ but doctors now warn that the current emergence of drug-resistant bacteria strains could prove to be more deadly than AIDS.

Viral killers like AIDS and Ebola are also occurring more frequently than ever, and the threat from influenza might be the most dangerous of all. The influenza virus has developed the ability to circumvent the human body’s main defense against the disease, raising the prospect of a deadly new global outbreak, scientists have discovered.

The biggest threat comes from strains created when one form of the virus jumps from an animal species to a human already infected with a more common type of flu. Inside the human host, the two viruses combine to create a

¹Matthew 24:7

²*The Millennium Development Goals 2005 Report* FAO.

³Maggie Fox, “Global Warming Means Third-World Hardship,” *Reuters*, 15 Feb 1996.

⁴John Houghton, “Global warming is now a weapon of mass destruction” *The Guardian*, 28 Jul 2003.

⁵“Water Wars: Climate change may spark conflict,” *The Independent*, 9 Apr 2007.

⁶“The Infection Comeback,” *U.S. News & World Report*, 29 Jan 1996.



brand-new strain to which no one on the planet has any prior immunity. Scientists now think this is what happened during the “Spanish flu” pandemic of 1918 and 1919, which killed an estimated 50 million people worldwide.

Pandemics come in cycles and we’re overdue for one.⁷ “New diseases are emerging at the historically unprecedented rate of one per year,” the WHO’s director-general, Dr. Margaret Chan, said in an introduction to the *2007 World Health Report*. “It would be extremely naïve and complacent to assume that there will not be another disease like AIDS, another Ebola, or another SARS, sooner or later,” the report said.

Considering today’s high volume of high-speed international travel, an outbreak of a deadly disease in any part of the world is only a few hours away from becoming a dire threat elsewhere.⁸

THE BIG SHAKE-UP

“And there will be earthquakes, in various places...”

A 1995 top-level meeting of geologists and seismologists warned that the rise of big cities along seismic fault lines will cause unprecedented catastrophes in the near future. “It’s virtually certain there will be catastrophes in the coming decades, the likes of which we have never seen,” Roger Bilham told an International Union of Geodesy and Geophysics meeting. “Fatality counts exceeding one million are not an unreasonable projection given that 50 percent of an urban population can be lost in a single earthquake.”⁹

The energy released in the 2004 Asian tsunami was equivalent to the explosion of 475,000 kilotons of TNT, or 23,000 Hiroshima-sized atomic bombs. At least 226,000 were killed and over 500,000 were injured.¹⁰

The Bible’s book of Revelation mentions five times that massive quakes will occur in the Last Days.

OUR VIOLENT WORLD

“As the days of Noah were, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be.”¹¹

Another condition that Jesus indicated would be evident immediately prior to His return would be pervasive violence.

How were things in “the days of Noah?” The book of Genesis tells us “the earth was corrupt before God, and was filled with violence.”¹²

Political violence is the term currently being used to describe the violence perpetrated by governments on their own or conquered people, or violence committed by political and ideological groups. In the 20th century it is estimated that around 110 million people died as a result of wars, whereas over 170 million were killed in political violence during the same period.¹³ ❧

(CONTINUED IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF *ACTIVATED*. EXCERPTED FROM THE BOOKLET *THE FUTURE FORETOLD*. 3RD ED. AURORA PRODUCTION AG, 2008.)

⁷“Medical Pros Fear Flu Pandemic,” *Daily News*, 3 Oct 2004.

⁸“Diseases spreading faster with travel,” *AP*, 23 Aug 2007.

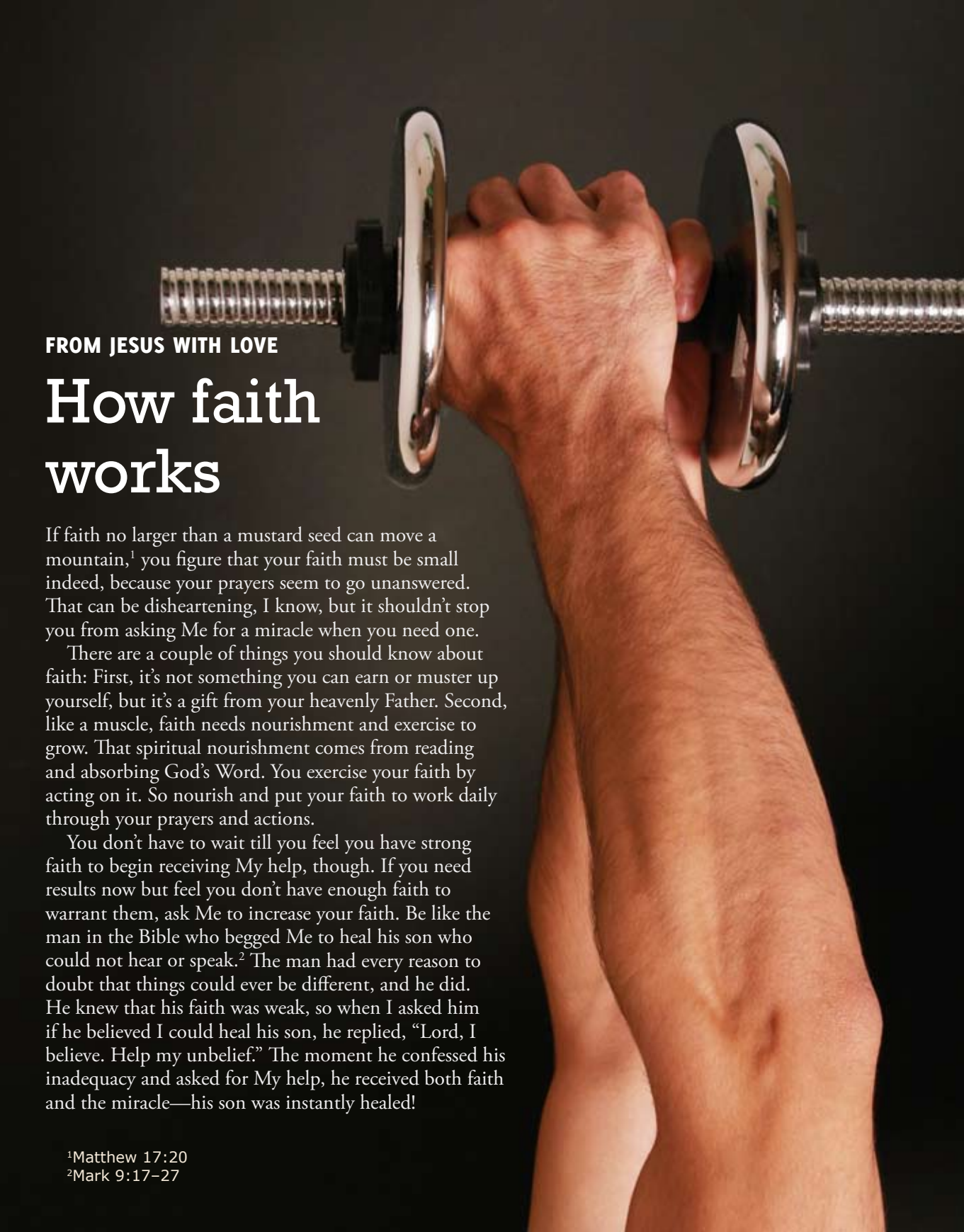
⁹“Deaths in quakes expected to rise as cities grow,” *Reuters*, Boulder, Colorado, 3 Jul 1995.

¹⁰“Facts and Figures: Asian Tsunami Disaster,” *New Scientist*, 20 Jan 2005.

¹¹Matthew 24:37

¹²Genesis 6:11

¹³R. J. Rummel, *Death by Government* (New Brunswick, N.J.: Transaction Publishers, 1994.)



FROM JESUS WITH LOVE

How faith works

If faith no larger than a mustard seed can move a mountain,¹ you figure that your faith must be small indeed, because your prayers seem to go unanswered. That can be disheartening, I know, but it shouldn't stop you from asking Me for a miracle when you need one.

There are a couple of things you should know about faith: First, it's not something you can earn or muster up yourself, but it's a gift from your heavenly Father. Second, like a muscle, faith needs nourishment and exercise to grow. That spiritual nourishment comes from reading and absorbing God's Word. You exercise your faith by acting on it. So nourish and put your faith to work daily through your prayers and actions.

You don't have to wait till you feel you have strong faith to begin receiving My help, though. If you need results now but feel you don't have enough faith to warrant them, ask Me to increase your faith. Be like the man in the Bible who begged Me to heal his son who could not hear or speak.² The man had every reason to doubt that things could ever be different, and he did. He knew that his faith was weak, so when I asked him if he believed I could heal his son, he replied, "Lord, I believe. Help my unbelief." The moment he confessed his inadequacy and asked for My help, he received both faith and the miracle—his son was instantly healed!

¹Matthew 17:20

²Mark 9:17-27