

## WHEN THE WORLD IS ON FIRE

By Bill Johnson

Such a title “The World is on Fire” is not hyperbole. Our God is a gracious, loving, merciful God but He is also just and righteous. Anyone who has even a little familiarity with the Bible knows that when He judges, He judges justly and strongly. America is deserving of God’s wrath. That should concern us greatly.

**Dr. Francis A. Schaeffer** prophetically wrote about the impending degradation that America faced if the church failed to turn back to God and His Holy Word.

In 1984, he wrote the following in his book *The Great Evangelical Disaster*:

*Finally, we must not forget that the world is on fire. We are not losing the church, but our entire culture as well. We live in the post Christian world which is under the judgment of God. I believe today that we must speak as Jeremiah did. Some people think that just because the United States of America is the United States of America, because Britain is Britain, they will not come under the judgment of God. This is not so. I believe that we of northern Europe since the Reformation have had such light as few others have possessed. We have stamped upon that light in our culture. Our cinemas, our novels, our art museums, our schools scream out and they stamp upon that light. And worst of all, modern theology screams out as it stamps upon that light. Do you think God will not judge our countries simply because they are our countries? Do you think that the Holy God will not judge?*

My comment:

Schaeffer was troubled by trends in America since the 1920s and with a heavy heart in the last days of his life, he spoke of the importance of us speaking into a reprobate culture with conviction and passion as Jeremiah did. Here are just a few such examples of the heart, soul, and caring of Jeremiah:

~Jeremiah 2:4-5:

*Hear the word of the Lord, O house of Jacob, and all the clans of the house of Israel. Thus says the Lord: “What wrong did your fathers find in me that they went far from me, and went after worthlessness, and became worthless?”*

~Jeremiah 22:6b-9:

*... yet surely I will make you a desert, an uninhabited city. I will prepare destroyers against you, each with his weapons, and they shall cut down your choicest cedars and cast them into the fire. And many nations will pass by this city, and every man will say to his neighbor, “Why has the Lord dealt thus with this great city?” And they will answer, “Because they have forsaken the covenant of the Lord their God and worshiped other gods and served them.”*

~Jeremiah 23:29: *Is not my word like fire, declares the Lord, and like a hammer that breaks the rock in pieces?*

What words and actions would Jeremiah speak if he were alive today upon viewing a video of the cutting up of babies and the selling of baby parts - cutting through

the heads of live babies to get to parts they sought?

I wholeheartedly believe that America is deserving of the wrath of God. The way in which we may see the hand of God judging us and thereby punishing us should be frightening to each of us.

God used outside nations to desecrate the temple, to destroy Jerusalem, to persecute and disseminate the Israelites - their men, women and even their children.

The Israelites were a stubborn, stiff-necked people who, though immensely blessed beyond all the nations of the world, prostituted themselves to false idols and to other nation’s gods. God repeatedly warned, exhorted, pleaded, and granted them grace upon grace. Still, they rebelled against Him at nearly every turn.

Schaeffer’s question: ***Do you think God will not judge America? Do you think that the Holy God will not judge?***

I have struggled writing this. However, in the tradition of Jeremiah, with the encouragement of Dr. Schaeffer’s words, I caringly urge you on as I have been urged on.

May God stir and prepare our hearts to mentor and lovingly warn others in the Lord!

God is gracious and merciful; however He also curses a nation which curses Him. Let us be reminded to make God our God and to live in His righteousness.



From the desk of Bill Johnson

## The Shrug that scares me to death

I very seldom have ever used my personal note space to quote a full article. However, the significance of this article by Trevin Wax was one that I really wanted you to have to measure yourself against.

One of my favorite films is Roberto Benigni's 1997 tragicomedy, *La Vita è Bella* (*Life is Beautiful*). It tells the story of a Jewish father, Guido, who invents creative ways to keep his son out of danger while they endure life in a concentration camp.

There is a scene in that film that continues to haunt me. Guido is a waiter serving German officials and their wives as they gather for an evening of fine dining. While the Nazis are eating and drinking in luxury, the horror of the concentration camp lies just beyond the walls.

But then, one of the German officials who knew Guido before the start of the war calls him over for a private conversation. Guido has every reason to think that this officer wants to help him and his family survive. Instead, the German officer picks up where they left off years before. You see, Guido was good at solving riddles, and this officer needs help in solving a particularly perplexing one.

The conversation is long. It goes on for several torturous minutes. As it dawns on him that the officer has given no thought to assisting him, Guido remains silent – his face filling with pain and disbelief. And in a moment of tragic and terrifying irony, Guido – a Jew who is seen as less than human by the Nazis – is the picture of humanity that stands over against the cold indifference of the Nazi officer.

**“A Shrugging of the Shoulders”**

I've thought of that scene a few times as I've read some of the online defenses of Planned Parenthood.

In *New York* magazine, for example, Rebecca Traister claims that the “big secret of abortion” is that “women already know how it works” – that pro-life efforts to show us the results of the procedure won't really change minds, no matter how grisly the videos get. Quoting Frances Kissling, she writes: “Abortions are yucky... but after that response, there is a shrugging of the shoulders.”

*That shrugging of the shoulders is what scares me to death.*

*Yes, I know there are pro-choice activists who, in light of these videos, are rethinking their position on abortion.*

*Yes, I know there are politicians on both sides of the aisle who find the videos disturbing.*

*Yes, I trust there are people who have shifted in their views due to the videos.*

*But the shrug is what scares me. It frightens me to think that we live in a society that can watch this kind of violence against the defenseless, say “Oh well!,” and then click to the next news story.*

### If They Only Knew?

*Many in the pro-life movement think the problem in our culture is one of ignorance. If just enough Americans knew what was really going on in these abortion clinics... If only they saw the freezers full of baby parts... If they could see how we chop up the unborn and sell off their parts... they would be outraged and would demand we stop the carnage!*

*So, we have blamed the media for not covering these stories sufficiently or for reporting them with blatant bias. That blame is justifiable. Media bias remains one of the strongest obstacles to the pro-life cause.*

*Still, we assume that once our fellow citizens see the victims, once people realize that there is always a dead body after an abortion, once people see the bloody reality behind our euphemisms like “products of*

*conception,” and “fetal tissue,” and “reproductive health,” then they will finally say, “Enough!”*

*I hope that assumption proves right.*

*But it scares me to death that we may be wrong. It frightens me to think we live in a society that knows full well what we are doing and simply doesn't care.*

*The shrug is the sign we have become a shell of humanity – a soulless society where the baby hearts we sell are bigger than our hearts that are still beating. We live in a world in which people can look square into the faces of tiny human beings and talk about how much money their organs will bring in.*

*“Shallow are the souls that have forgotten how to shudder,” says Leon Kass. The absence of societal shuddering in response to the Planned Parenthood videos frightens me more than the videos themselves.*

### God, Open Eyes

*What does this mean for us as we go forward? At the national prayer breakfast in 2012, when Eric Metaxas shared the platform with President Obama, he compared the pro-life movement to Wilberforce and Bonhoeffer; explaining how we are to treat people whose eyes are blind to the humanity of the unborn:*

*Wilberforce saw what the people in his day didn't see, and we celebrate him for it. Bonhoeffer saw what others did not see...*

*Apart from God, we cannot see that the unborn are persons. Those of us who know the unborn are human beings are commanded by God to love those who do not yet see that. We need to know that apart from God we would be on the other side of that divide...*

*Metaxas is right. That's why we must pray – that God will open eyes to see the gift of human life and the tragedy of our killing clinics. After all, had God not opened our own eyes, we would be shrugging too.*

~ Trevin Wax, The Gospel Coalition, August 25, 2015 <http://www.thegospelcoalition.org/blogs/trevinwax/2015/08/25/the-shrug-that-scares-me-to-death/>

# Take the River Road

by Chris Johnson



For an elective leadership course that I took in college, I was required to watch the movie, “Hotel Rwanda.”

This 2004 movie, of course, tells the story of a group of Tutsi refugees in a luxury hotel during the Rwandan genocide in which the Hutu attempted to wipe out the Tutsis.

Honestly, I remember little of the plotline for the film, but one scene I will never forget, and if you’ve seen the movie, you know exactly what I’m talking about.

The scene begins with Paul Rusesabagina, the manager of the hotel and the protagonist of the film, travelling to a Hutu friend of his who was the leader of a local Tutsi-killing militia to purchase supplies for the hotel. Paul’s friend gives him the supplies and sends him on his way, telling him to take the road by the river.

As Paul and his driver drive through the heavy fog on the river road, they start going over some bumps - so much so that Paul tells his driver to stop because he’s afraid they’ve gone off road and will drive into the river.

When he gets out of the van, however, he immediately trips over something. That’s when Paul literally comes face to face with the atrocity that his people are committing. When he sees what he tripped over, he realizes they have been driving over the dead bodies of slaughtered Tutsis, strewn across the road.

Paul retches, and I think I did too, the first time I saw it.

That was 8 years ago, and I should watch it again so that I can recount the story better, but I just watched a similar video, and I’m

not sure I can take that much senseless killing in one day.

In the video I just watched, however, the characters just slam their doors and keep driving over the bodies.

Of course, that would be the eighth video released by the aptly named Center for Medical Progress.

The first seven videos have focused on Planned Parenthood’s grisly side business of parting out the babies they abort. We’ve seen their executives talk about how “crunchy” abortions can be, how lucrative selling an infant’s organs can be, we’ve seen PP employees spooning through a bowl of baby, pulling out limbs, and exclaiming, “It’s a boy!” We’ve heard from a former Stem Express employee who was asked to access a baby’s brains by cutting through his (or her) face. For science! or something.

This eighth video focuses on Stem Express itself, the company that buys baby “specimens” (they need like 50 more baby livers a week if they’re going to meet the demand).

The defining moment in this video comes when the Stem Express CEO, Kate Dyer, shakes her head at the silly “researchers” who order “specimens” from her company.

Here’s a partial transcript from the video:

*“It’s almost like they don’t want to know where it comes from... Where they’re like, “We need limbs, but no hands and feet need to be attached.” And you’re like, ? Or they want long bones, and they want you to take it all off, like, make it so that we don’t know what it is.”*

She continues, *“But we know what it is. I mean, [laughter], but their lab... techs freak out, and have meltdowns, and so it’s just like, yeah...”*

So, what is it, Kate Dyer? What has hands and feet that need to be taken off the long bones? What has a face that must be cut through with scissors to access the brains?

What has the parts that would make a calloused Planned Parenthood employee exclaim, “It’s a boy!” on finding them lying in a pile of flesh chunks in a Petri dish?

We do know what it is.

It’s a child.

Here, in the United States, we kill and cut up babies - not necessarily in that order - for medical research. Why? Well, maybe if we can get enough livers from the baby farms, we’ll be able to save a few valuable adults along the way.

There. Now we can’t pretend we don’t know about it.

These videos are as close to a “take the river road” moment as we’re going to get, unless, of course, the wrong box falls off a UPS truck, because, by the way, Stem Express likes to ship whole baby heads to researchers.

There have been predictions - and I pray they’re right - that this will be the generation to end abortion. Whether it’s this one or not, I am confident that someday our descendants will look at our selfish slaughter of over one million of the most innocent among us every year in the same way we look at the Incas or the Mayans or the worshippers of Molech. *How could they be so barbaric?*

But when that first generation in a world with illegal abortion asks their parents what they did to end the evil, it is my guess that very few will be able to say, “I did enough. I did everything I could to save those people. My conscience is clean.”

May God give us the passion, wisdom, and energy to topple this hellish institution.

Pastor John Piper recently prayed at an abortion rally and the end of his prayer is a fitting end to this writing:

*“And so, Lord, when you do these mighty works, may your name be honored and may Christ be exalted, may the gospel advance in our land. Amen.”*

# Nuclear Fallout

by Lisa Van Houten



I'm old enough to remember the first Iranian hostage crisis. In 1979, fifty-two Americans were taken hostage when Iranian terrorists overran the U.S. Embassy in Tehran. These Americans were held by the Iranian regime and endured horrific physical and psychological torture for 444 days. Even though that took place 35 years ago when I was just a freshman in high school, I didn't need to research the number of days our hostages were held captive in Iran. I suspect many Americans of my generation and older would also remember. The number "444" is still fresh in my memory because every single night on the evening news Walter Cronkite and his other network counterparts reminded viewers of the number of days these Americans were held as we saw Iranian videos of blindfolded hostages being taunted by their captors. It was a lead story day after day that roused American outrage and anger – so much so that to this day Jimmy Carter cites the failed attempts to rescue them as the reason he lost his presidential reelection bid.

Thirty-five years later we again have several Americans held hostage in Iran subjected to even more horrific torture. Yet the evening news is silent when it comes to their plight. There is no running record of their days (now years) in captivity. The Obama administration will trade terrorists for a traitor, but when sitting across the negotiation table with Iranian leaders, Secretary of State John Kerry doesn't even demand their release. As Gary Bauer wrote, "That should have been the bare minimum Iran gave us in return for \$100 billion in sanctions relief."

Rick Kupke is an American who has followed America's dealings with Iran closely. As Kupke stated: ***"Letting the four hostages just sit there — I think that's a horrible thing to do. An American hostage is an American hostage and not a low priority."***

Rick Kupke has a personal interest because he was one of the 52 Americans taken hostage in Iran in 1979. In an interview with the Texas Star-Telegram, Kupke stated that he and his fellow former hostages are very alarmed over President Obama's deal with Iran.

"This is probably the worst agreement of this kind I've seen in my lifetime," said Kupke. "I don't know why they think the Iranians are going to abide by any agreement. They never have. I think it's going to trigger a nuclear arms race ... because everyone in the area is going to want to stay even with the Iranians as they violate the agreement."

Kupke went on to warn: ***"Once they get this infusion of tens and tens of billions of dollars, I think everybody knows they will... probably start a war with Israel so they can wipe them out. We are putting trust in a nation that sponsors terrorism. I don't understand why we are doing that."***

Rick Kupke isn't the only one who doesn't understand why we are doing that. A recent Quinnipiac national poll found that American voters oppose the nuclear pact with Iran by a margin of 57 - 28 percent, with only lukewarm support from Democrats and overwhelming opposition for Republicans and independent voters. Voters say, 58 - 30 percent, the nuclear pact will make the world less safe.

Even some high-profile Democrats oppose this deal which not only gives Iran \$100 billion to use for arms buildup and terrorist activity, but also, amazingly, allows Iran to "self-inspect" their nuclear sites. In a classic example of the fox guarding the henhouse, as the AP reports, ***"Iran will be allowed to use its own inspectors to investigate a site it has been accused of using to develop nuclear arms ..."***

One of the Democrats opposing this deal is Senator Robert Menendez, former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. Menendez stated in a powerful speech: ***"This is one of the most serious national security, nuclear nonproliferation, arms control issues of our time. . . ."***

***"Frankly, in my view, the overall sanctions relief being provided . . . along with the lifting of the arms and missile embargo well before Iranian compliance over years is established, leaves us in a weak position. . . ."***

***"The agreement that has been reached failed to achieve the one thing it set out to achieve -- it failed to stop Iran from becoming a nuclear weapons state at a time of its choosing. In fact, it authorizes and supports the very road map Iran will need to arrive at its target. . . ."***

***Maybe Iran will desist from its nuclear ambitions. Maybe they'll stop exporting and supporting terrorism. Maybe they'll stop holding innocent Americans hostage. Maybe they'll stop burning American flags. And maybe their leadership will stop chanting, 'Death to America' in the streets of Tehran. Or maybe they won't. . . ."***

On January 20, 1981 when the 52 hostages were finally released, they were led through a gauntlet of Iranians shouting "Death to America." Thirty-four years later Iranians are still chanting "Death to America" even as they celebrate in the streets our capitulation. If President Obama's deal is implemented, those chants may become reality.

**Call your members of Congress at 202-224-3121 and tell them to oppose the Iranian Nuclear deal.**

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## The New Orthodoxy

by Lisa Van Houten



You probably have seen the “coexist” bumper stickers that purport the idea that people of all belief systems should just get along. That may be a nice thought, but there are some things that just can’t coexist. Two of those are religious liberty and the new-found “right” to homosexual marriage. For as we’re now seeing, obtaining the legal status of marriage is not the ultimate goal of the LGBT movement - forced allegiance to their moral revolution is.

As Matt Barber writes: *... the almost instant explosion in government-sanctioned, anti-Christian extremism on display post Obergefell v. Hodges, confirms the poisonous three-fold agenda that underlies the “social justice” mob’s flowery “marriage equality” propaganda. That is: 1) the ultimate destruction of marriage, 2) forced affirmation of sexual deviancy under penalty of law, and 3) the eventual criminalization of Christianity.*

In the last two months alone there have been numerous attempts to force Christians to affirm homosexuality under the threat of law. As a growing list of Christian bakers, florists, and wedding photographers have found, the power of the state will no longer tolerate the free expression of religion if those religious beliefs do not affirm gay marriage. Such service providers haven’t refused doing business with homosexuals, but have declined from using their talents to participate in a gay “wedding” ceremony because doing so would violate their faith. A Christian baker in Colorado is the latest to be throttled by the long arm of the law.

The Colorado Court of Appeals recently upheld the Colorado Civil Rights Commission ruling which ordered the owner of a family bakery to bake wedding cakes for

homosexual “weddings” or pay exorbitant fines. However, not only must the baker bake, he must also reeducate. In a move that sounds as if its coming from a Stalinist regime rather than the land of the free, the State of Colorado ordered the “reeducation” of this baker and his employees – including his 88 year old mother. As reported by [The Federalist](#), the baker is being “forced to provide comprehensive staff training, ensure compliance, and then file quarterly obedience reports with the government for two full years.”

Obedience reports?? We are well along on the road to forced affirmation of sexual deviancy under penalty of law. How long until we reach the criminalization of Christianity?

And it doesn’t stop at Christian bakers. Just ask David Wells, a minister who served as a volunteer chaplain, counselor, and mentor with the Kentucky Department of Juvenile Justice for 13 years. When Pastor Wells refused to sign a document promising not to use the term “sin” in any discussion regarding homosexuality, the Kentucky Dept. of Juvenile Justice barred him from his long-standing volunteer position. The policy states: “... DJJ staff, volunteers, interns, and contractors shall not imply or tell LGBTQI juveniles that they are abnormal, deviant, sinful, or that they can or should change their sexual orientation or gender identity.”

Wells stated, “They are defining hateful or derogatory as meaning what the Bible says about homosexuality. They told us we could not preach that homosexuality is a sin – period.”

Albert Mohler, president of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, stated on his daily podcast: “[A]bundantly clear is the fact that this represents how a moral revolution works in terms of eventually reaching every aspect of the culture. Nothing will remain unchallenged and here we see the coercive power of the state brought in terms of defining the very notion of sin ... Here you have the Commonwealth of Kentucky declaring that certain volunteers based upon their Christian conviction are

*according to the state, heretics according to the state’s official theology...”*

There is no doubt that the affirmation of homosexuality is the new orthodoxy in our culture. Every Christian and every Christian institution will have to make a decision to which they will adhere – the teaching of God or man. For non-profit organizations such as American Decency, it might mean losing our non-profit status. For Christian colleges it could very well require the choice between continuing to align with God’s Word or the federal funds they are dependent upon, including students who receive federal student loans.

We are already seeing Christian educational institutions make this choice. Baptist-affiliated Baylor University recently removed a ban on ‘homosexual acts’ from its sexual conduct code. [Christianity Today](#) also wrote of two members of the Council for Christian Colleges and Universities who have quietly changed their policies regarding sexual orientation, reporting, *Goshen College and Eastern Mennonite University have added “sexual orientation” to their nondiscrimination policies, opening the door for the schools to hire staff and faculty who are in same-sex marriages.*

And in recent months the First Baptist Church of Greenville, SC adopted a policy allowing for the ordination of homosexual ministers and gay marriage: *“In all facets of the life and ministry of our church, including but not limited to membership, baptism, ordination, marriage, teaching and committee/organizational leadership, First Baptist, Greenville, will not discriminate based on sexual orientation or gender identity.”*

As we see these institutions cave to this new orthodoxy, when push comes to shove, what will we affirm? Conformity to the world or the Word? For the true Christian, even though the consequences might be difficult, the choice shouldn’t be. As Dietrich Bonhoeffer wrote: ***For faith is only real when there is obedience, never without it, and faith only becomes faith in the act of obedience.***

# The Invisible Battle: Will you fight?

by Bill Johnson



I spoke recently at a church camp meeting south of Grand Rapids. The congregation was blessed with a large proportion of children and young people. It was a beautiful sight to Jan and I as we dined and fellowshiped with them.

I heard it again in conversation while there, *“We’ve had a very good life, but I’m so concerned for our children and grandchildren.”*

You’ve heard those concerns spoken, and many of you have probably voiced them yourselves.

Some of you like me have been prayerfully trying to think how to best prepare those who come after us to live in a culture that is rapidly becoming increasingly hostile.

**The Invisible Battle: Will you fight? – was the title of my message.**

In athletics we know we need to train physically, and largely, many are inclined to do it.

Weight lifting, push-ups, sit ups, and running build up our muscles, our strength, our endurance. Physically, we become out of shape very quickly if we don’t exercise for even just a few days. We lose physical vitality.

**The Bible makes it clear - exercise does some good.** I Timothy 4:8 For “physical exercise has some value, but godliness is valuable in every way. ... What will it avail us to discipline the body, if we do not mortify sin?”

We know why we exercise our body. We seem to know very well what it does.

But here is the concerning question that I raise: Do we know why we need to train or exercise our spirits?

I think largely the answer is that many don’t.

## Please think about this.

Do you know why you need to exercise or train your spirit?

Do you exercise your spirit and if so how?

Do you know how to pass this along?

## What are a few evidences that someone is exercising or training their spirit?

Spiritual warfare is real and present every day, even every moment. As Ephesians 6 tells us we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

We must understand this and diligently help our loved ones understand how to fight spiritually. But first, what about you? What about me?

I’m often lethargic physically when I step on the treadmill, but as I begin to move and to push myself, my heart and body enlivens and I become increasingly energized and this enlivening helps me throughout the day.

**But there is something similar at work spiritually.** This spiritual warfare that we face includes whether Satan has his way in our lives or whether God does.

But here is the kicker: If we don’t have Christ in our heart then we aren’t equipped with God’s Spirit to help us resist the devil, to oppose and fight against sin that will degrade and ultimately destroy.

But when we become Christians, His Spirit unites with our spirit sealing us in the Holy Spirit as the Bible says in Ephesians 1:13.

He is ours and we are His.

His Spirit then resides within us. God tells us in Philippians 1: 6 that He who has begun a good work within you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ.

We become the temple of the Holy Spirit. He lives within me. He lives within you. He advocates for you. He advocates for me. He assists us. He helps us to oppose, to resist, to defeat sin in our lives. He quickens our spirit – giving us clarity of what is wrong, what is sin, what is degrading.

But just as with physical lethargy that can and often does keep us from physical exercise, so there is also spiritual lethargy (lukewarmness) where complacency, laziness, apathy, our love for ease and comfort works against us and Satan uses it to devour us.

This includes either not knowing how to exert (exercise) our spirituality or just simply failing to. The consequences of this spiritual lethargy begins to show up soon after and largely are not recognized for what they are: unfaithfulness to God.

**For example:** We can go on in our lives wide open to sin, gloom, ugliness, hurting our loved ones, hurting others, and all the while hurting ourselves and self-destructing. That’s what sin does. It destroys. That’s what Satan is about. Seeking whom he may devour. Be alert and sober minded. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour. (I Peter 5:8)

Lulled asleep by the enemy of your soul.

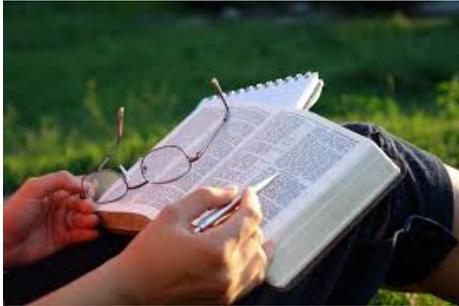
We cannot resist sin in our own flesh, but in Christ we can kill sin. We can defeat sin in our lives. Faith IS the victory that overcomes the world.

So how do we exercise (discipline) our spirits?

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# The Invisible Battle: Will you fight?

by Bill Johnson



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Here is the short of it. (1) I get up early in the morning to spend time sitting before God in my living room where all is quiet. I read an initial devotional that is short and points to Christ and His Word. (2) I read the Bible going through it systematically – reading through the Bible in one year. Where I don't understand I seek understanding through a study Bible or a commentary. (3) I read other devotionals including: C.H. Spurgeon, *Morning by Morning*; Oswald Chambers, *My Utmost for His Highest*; F.B. Meyer, *Our Daily Walk*; and J.C. Ryle, quotes from his writings.

As I read these devotionals, I see that they sometimes cut me to the quick, stepping on my toes, pointing out an area where God is trying to speak with me. (4) I finish with a time of prayer asking for God to help me, guide me, strengthen me, show me what I need.

I have done this now since the late 1970s. My wife Jan does to. God uses this time that extends into an hour to keep me centered in His Word, to worship Him in spirit and in truth and to enliven me in spiritual things. I go out the door encouraged and enlivened.

In short, as we seek God in this way, our spirits are enlivened to know His will and to do it. (Romans 12:1,2)

As we seek God in this way (exercising our spirit) it helps us to know the difference between what pleases God and what doesn't. Test all things. Hold fast what is good. Abstain from all forms of evil. (I Thess. 5:21)

As we seek God in spirit and in truth, He gives us a longing to be more like him, little by little, more and more, day by day. That the man of God may be perfect thoroughly furnished unto all good works. (II Timothy 3:14-17)

As we seek God in His word and in prayer, our spirits are stirred to love Christ and to love others and be strengthened to fight for our marriage, our children, for endurance in the middle of hardship, to do what's right even when we don't want to, for truth, for holiness.

This time with the Lord, faithfully day by day – every day - brings us to Himself.

No matter who you are or your age you and I have a need – a spiritual need – a need that the Spirit of God will live within you, not in theory, but in spirit and in truth – in reality.

Wake up!

**Is it pornography? Is it too much time playing games? Is it lying to get your way?** As our love grows with the Lord, we want to please the lover of our soul. Our spirits are awakened to hear His still small voice and to trust and obey more and more.

Friends in Christ: No matter your situation. This message is for you.

Many, many, many believe they are Christians. Some go to church even faithfully. Many care about the things that concern Christians.

Yet, they let sin – even so-called little sin – have its way and over the years it controls them. We are in a war of monumental proportions. We must see this and help our loved ones see this.

God wants that to stop. If we don't gain the victory, we are in danger of being neutralized, deadened, and defeated. It can and does affect our relationship with Christ. In short, it can negatively impact our usefulness and service to the Lord,

our marriage, parenting, our future, our eternity.

Satan is trying to control us while the Spirit is prompting us to stand and prevail, to take spiritual ground, and put to death Satan's hold upon us.

## Giving by EFT



●EFT stands for electronic funds transfer. When an electronic funds transfer takes place, money is exchanged without the use of cash, check, or any other sort of medium. This is made possible because banks nationwide are connected electronically to each other.

●When you set up an EFT account with the ADA, you are authorizing ADA's bank and your bank to make an electronic funds transaction in which the amount you specify will be debited from your account at your bank and credited to ADA's account at their bank. It's that simple.

If you would like to set up such an account, please contact us at (231) 924-4050 or see the enclosed response card.



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# Don't Be the Next Victim

by Bill Johnson



We've heard about dangers online. Typically we think of pornography, online predators, identity theft, and other aspects of the dark side of the Internet. These are all concerning threats from which we should do all we can to protect ourselves and our family.

The Internet is a powerful tool, but it can also be harmful to us individually and to those we care about. Does our online activity align with our Christian testimony? Are we lax in what we allow our children to view and be involved in? Does screen time replace family time?

These are important questions to ask ourselves, yet the online risk to you and your family is even more pervasive.

Recently there has been a lot of new activity on Internet security that we believe is of grave concern. Basically, American Family Online (afo.net) has a goal to keep you informed and aware of the risks, very similar to food warnings. Lack of knowledge makes you vulnerable!

These three articles listed below were just recently posted at afo.net for you as a resource. Take some time to bring yourself up to date. You will be glad you did. American Family Online is the host for our website (AmericanDecency.org) and they have specialized for over 17 years in helping to protect families from the dark side of the Internet. That includes a lot more than just a filter or an anti-virus. Their goal is to put all this information at your finger tips and provide tools and expertise so that you do not become the next victim.

## 1. Hunting for Hackers, N.S.A. Secretly Expands Internet Spying at U.S. Border

[http://internetsafetyspecialist.com/articles.php?article\\_no=23](http://internetsafetyspecialist.com/articles.php?article_no=23)

## 2. Three Things You Need to Know about the FCC Net Neutrality Rules

[http://internetsafetyspecialist.com/articles.php?article\\_no=22](http://internetsafetyspecialist.com/articles.php?article_no=22)

## 3. Massive data breach compromises personal information of 4 million federal workers

[http://internetsafetyspecialist.com/articles.php?article\\_no=19](http://internetsafetyspecialist.com/articles.php?article_no=19)

their eyes and they were just beaming with anticipation. When they started to pass out the towels and blankets to the kids, they just held them tight. It melted my heart to think that these simple towels and blankets meant so much to them. They kept coming up to me saying "thank you" and shaking my hand.

The greatest part is to see that God is working in GREAT ways in the lives of these kids. Eleven of the fourteen kids that participate in the Bible Club on Wednesdays have given their lives to Christ in the last two weeks. Six of them did the night I was there. It was a beautiful evening! They were given Bibles and they were so excited that they had their own Bible. They wanted to look up the passages in their own Bible. They have been working on memorizing John 3:16. To see a young boy with a great big smile on his face reciting God's Word, there is nothing like it!

As I was saying goodbye to the kids, my heart was heavy for them. First, I was another person who they had started to get attached to and was now leaving. I am glad that they are learning that our heavenly Father never leaves us nor forsakes us. Secondly, I think of what they have seen or dealt with. I pray that they can reverse the cycle that affects so many people who've gone through physical and sexual abuse as many of them have. I am glad that with caring people showing them God's love and sharing His Word that He can help them and be their Protector.

As I am back in the States, I am challenged by my trip. I am evaluating how much time I spend on worldly thing rather than in the Word and spreading the gospel. How is my prayer life? Am I helping the teens in my area with their spiritual growth? There are many things to ponder, but I am glad that God is in control and that He is my Heavenly Father!

## A Heart for God

by Kimberly Cargill



I had the opportunity to spend two weeks in Brazil visiting friends who are missionaries. This was my second trip there. This time, I had the opportunity to be part of their ministry in an orphanage. My home church provided bath towels and hand towels for each of the kids. We wanted to make them personal, so when I got to Brazil, the daughter of the missionary embroidered their names on the towels. Another church had provided blankets. The night that we brought them to the orphanage was like Christmas to the children! The leaders at the orphanage had the kids come to the living room and told them that I had brought them something special from America. I watched

