

# The Amish Voice



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## Amish People: Born Again, The Same Way As Others?

The Word of God is clear and leaves no room for doubt; if one desires to see or enter the kingdom of God s/he MUST be born again.

### John 3:3 and 5

V-3. *Jesus answered and said unto him (Nicodemus), Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he CANNOT SEE the kingdom of God.*

V-5. *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he CANNOT ENTER into the kingdom of God.*

These statements, which were made by the Lord Himself, are black and white, sure, and to the point; one must be born again or s/he will NEVER see nor enter God's kingdom.

With that in mind, let's ask ourselves some questions and then dig into God's Word for some answers to our questions.

1

**ARE AMISH PEOPLE 'BORN AGAIN', EXACTLY THE SAME WAY AS NON-AMISH?**

2

**DO DIFFERENT GROUPS BECOME BORN AGAIN IN DIFFERENT WAYS, DEPENDING ON THE STRUCTURE OF THEIR CHURCH AND FAMILY BELIEFS?**

3

**DOES THE SECOND BIRTH HAPPEN GRADUALLY AND OVER A LIFE TIME OR DOES IT HAPPEN INSTANTLY?**

4

**CAN A PERSON WHO GETS BORN AGAIN, EVER BECOME UNBORN, REBORN AND UNBORN?**

5

**CAN AN AMISH PERSON BE BORN AGAIN BY SIMPLY BELONGING AND FOLLOWING THE AMISH RELIGION?**

6

**CAN THOSE WHO LEAVE THE AMISH CHURCH EVER BE BORN AGAIN? OR DOES S/HE HAVE TO COME BACK AND RE-JOIN BEFORE THE NEW BIRTH TAKES AFFECT?**

7

**HOW DOES A PERSON BECOME BORN AGAIN?**

Several years ago, while having a conversation with Albert, a friend of mine, we discussed some of these same questions at lengths. We went into great detail on how Jesus, in John chapter 3, told Nicodemus, "you must be born again, if you want to see the kingdom of God".

At one point, Albert looked up at me and said, "Joe, you may be surprised to know that I have

memorized every single verse in John chapter three".

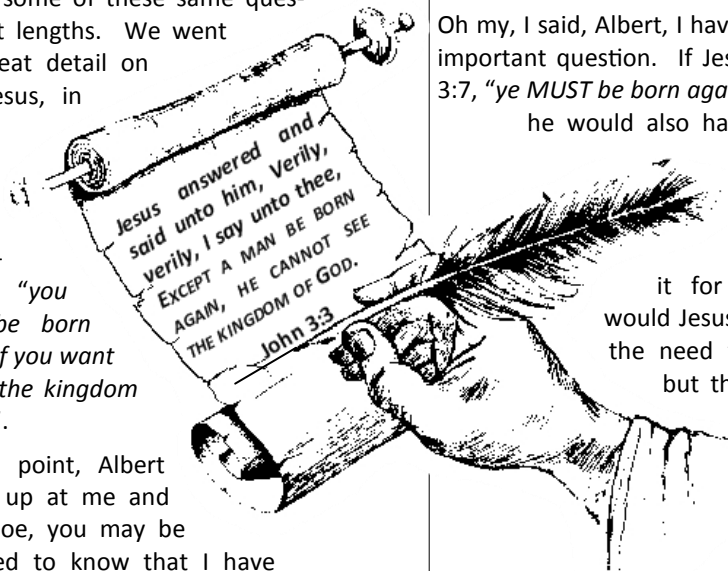
I responded by saying, Albert, I cannot recall ever hearing of anyone being able to quote the whole chapter by heart. Why, I said, that is just absolutely phenomenal! But then I asked him, Albert, now that you are able to quote the whole chapter, do you know how to be born again?

He gave me somewhat of a puzzled look and said, "well Joe, I am not for sure that I know, but my guess is, that since I got baptized, joined the Amish church and am doing the best I can in following the commandments of God and the church, I will probably be considered born again in God's eyes.

Oh my, I said, Albert, I have to ask you a very important question. If Jesus told us in John 3:7, "ye MUST be born again", don't you think he would also have allowed us the

benefit of KNOWING when we get born again? I mean, think about

it for a moment, why would Jesus be so clear about the need to be born again, but then keep us in the dark when it comes to knowing HOW and IF we are born



again?

*Let me illustrate: That would be the same as if I said to you, if you want to live another year, you have to go to Africa and get a heart transplant, however, at that point, I would stop short of telling you where Africa is located and how to get there. You would be completely on your own to figure out how to put the puzzle pieces together.*

We would never do that to each other. Neither would our Lord, who loved us such passion that He gave up His home in heaven, came to a sin stained world and gave His very life and blood so that we might be born again.

The truth is, not only does the Bible tell us we MUST be born again, it tells us...

1. HOW to be born again
2. We can KNOW when we get born again

With that in mind, let us dig into God's Word and find these important answers. Where we will spend the rest of eternity depends on it.

During our study, we are at times going to join a conversation that is going on between the Jesus and Nicodemus, a Pharisee and ruler of the Jews. Shhhh! Let's be quite as we make our way over to where they are sitting. Let's listen in, as Jesus tells Nicodemus how to get to heaven.

**John 3:1-2**

*There was A MAN OF THE PHARISEES, named Nicodemus, A RULER OF THE JEWS: The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, Rabbi, we know that Thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that Thou doest, except God be with him.*

Now, think with me, we have a man here, who is in a leadership position within the Jewish culture; he is a Pharisee and a ruler. In other words, he was not your average church member. Oh no, far from it.

Pharisee's were highly educated and respected by those who followed them.

**The word Pharisee means** the separated ones. The Pharisees were strict religionists. Their religious sect arose about B.C. 175. A Syrian king, Antiochus Epiphanes, tried to stamp out the Jewish religion and replace it with Greek customs and practic-



es. A number of Jewish men opposed this threat and determined among themselves to save the Jewish religion. They refused to practice Greek customs and dedicated

**Heart to Heart with Joe Keim**



Are you an angry person? Do you hold grudges against your spouse, children, and others? Has bitterness wrapped itself around you like chains, to the point where you often times feel like a prisoner, living in a dungeon, and completely unable to come free? Maybe, you have even considered suicide, because in your mind, that may be the only way out. Ah friend, let me tell you, there is a way out.

I want to tell you something. Please hear me. Many have felt what you are feeling, but the good thing is, when they reached the bottom of their pit and could not go any lower, they lifted their eyes for help and found it; you can too.

**The Lord gives us hope by telling us that His grace is sufficient**

*And he said unto me, **My grace is sufficient for thee:** for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: **for when I am weak, then am I strong.** (2 Cor 12:9-10)*

**The Lord also tells us in Luke 18:27:** *And He said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.*

The Lord would not ask something of you that wasn't possible. But the key to remember; it is His grace that is sufficient. It is through

Him that ALL things are possible. If you keep your eyes on yourself and your own efforts, you will fail 100% of the time. Have you forgotten, you cannot even so much as lift a finger without the Lord's help.

Sometimes after an outburst of anger we pray and ask God to free us from it, but then we are disappointed in God for not answering our prayer. Let me say something about this: if we only run to Him when are in need, we will never fully tap into the grace that is available to us. Let me explain even further:

Our God is a relational God, not a problem solver on call. We can only grow in His sufficient grace and strength by having an intimate relationship with Him. This is done by spending time with Him on a daily basis; reading and memorizing His Word and praying.

Jesus faced extreme abuse and yet He never lost His temper or spoke a word in His own defense. He was one with the Father and often slipped away for time alone with Him. Did you know, that same strength is also available to us today? Yes, it is!

If you, or someone you know, struggles with anger and bitterness, will you let us know and we will send you a 31-lesson Bible study that will take the person through a process of overcoming. The name of the study book is "*Uprooting Anger — Destroying the Monster Within*", and sells for \$18.50, if you can afford it. Our address and contact info is on the front of this publication. Write or call us!

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themselves to practicing the Jewish law in the strictest sense.

They felt that by carrying out every little detail of the Jewish law and by teaching others to do the same, they could save the Jewish religion and nation and keep it from dying out.

Several things should be noted

1. They were a sect or school of religious thought. They were organized solely for preserving the law and the Jewish religion. Thereby, they were to save the Jewish nation.
2. They were strict literalists. The Jewish law was expanded into thousands and thousands of little rules and regulations by the Scribes. These rules and regulations were known as the Scribal or Oral Law. More than fifty volumes or books were eventually needed to hold the regulations.
3. The Pharisees were a body of the most zealous religionists.
4. There were never many Pharisees—never more than 6,000. The strictness and demands of the sect were too hard for the common people.
5. They were in dead earnest—dedicated and zealous, self-denying, and moral. No man could give his life to so desperate and restrictive a task unless he was totally genuine. —POSB Commentary

Did you know that the Apostle Paul, before his conversion on the road to Damascus, was also a Pharisee? Look how he described himself and his behavior to the Church at Philippi:

**Philippians 3:4-6**

Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath whereof he might trust in the flesh, I more: Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

Like all other Pharisees, the Apostle Paul was a pure and highly educated religious leader. His very presence demanded respect from all. As far as he and other Pharisees were concerned, if a man or woman wanted to be right with God, they had to separate themselves from all other cultures, follow only the teach-

ings of the Pharisees, and go to no one else's church except theirs. Their very name meant "separated ones". However, after the Light from heaven and Jesus' voice got Paul's attention, his whole thought pattern changed. Paul writes:

**Philippians 3:7-9**

*But what things (rules, traditions, good works, education, culture) were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. ...and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:*

In other words, Paul is saying, "those things that were of such importance and value in my man made religion, were all of a sudden nothing more than dung (manure) to me." It had done nothing for him as far as his righteousness with God was concerned. It was purely man-made and led nowhere but down a dead end street.

See also Colossians 2:20-23

Well, we kind of got off track there, but I really wanted us to see what kind of a man Nicodemus was. And now that we have a better understanding of his position and lifestyle, let's go back and rejoin the conversation that was taking place between him and Jesus.

Nicodemus had been following Jesus around for days, watching him do miracles that were totally out of the ordinary. And at some point, he couldn't stand it any longer; he had to sit down with Jesus and have a heart to heart talk with Him.

But because of fear and worry about what others might think, he waited until it was



completely dark and then he pulled Jesus aside and said, "Rabi [Master], we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him"

In a sense, Nicodemus was asking, "Who are you? The miracles show that God is with you, but you are claiming to be the Messiah, the Son of God. Are you—truthfully—in all honesty?"

Notice in the next verse, Jesus did not answer Nicodemus directly. He was able to look into the empty, searching heart of Nicodemus and see the honesty of his question. So Jesus went right to the heart of the matter. Miracles and signs were not what was important. What was important was for Nicodemus to be changed: changed spiritually, changed within, and changed completely—to undergo such a spiritual change that it could only be described as being *born again*.

**John 3:3**

*Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, **EXCEPT A MAN BE BORN AGAIN, HE CANNOT SEE THE KINGDOM OF GOD.***

Jesus looked His creation right in the eye and said, Nicodemus, if you have plans on being where God is and dwelling in His kingdom, you MUST experience a FULL and COMPLETE new birth; you will have to be born all over again!

Like any other human being, Nicodemus was caught off guard and totally un-prepared for such a statement. And he immediately interrupted Jesus, by asking:

**John 3:4**

*...how can a man be born when he is old? can he enter the second time into his mother's womb, and be born?*

Nicodemus saw Jesus' challenge as impossible. *What do you mean Jesus? Are You trying to tell me that I have to crawl back into my mother's womb and go through the whole birthing process again?*

Later on, when discussing salvation with His disciples, Jesus gave a more clear understanding of this new birth, when He said:

**Mark 10:27**

*With men it is impossible, but not with God: for with God all things are possible.*

The only way a person can be born the second time, is by receiving God's ETERNAL LIFE.

**Romans 6:23**



...the gift of God is **ETERNAL LIFE** through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Ephesians 2:8-9**

For by grace are ye saved (born again) through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Many years before, the prophet Ezekiel had also spoken of this second birth:

**Ezekiel 36:25-27**

Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. **A NEW HEART** also will I give you, and **a NEW SPIRIT** will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

**AND I WILL PUT MY SPIRIT WITHIN YOU...**



My dear friend, there are many Plain people who walk this earth and call themselves Christians. They oftentimes do so for the following reasons:

1. I am Amish
2. I belong to a church that doesn't have divorces, murders, prisons, etc
3. I live a plain and simple lifestyle
4. I have been baptized and am a member of the Amish church
5. I obey my parents
6. I keep the traditions and follow the church rules
7. I have separated myself from the worldly churches
8. I am honest, work hard, and help the poor and needy
9. I do not allow myself to watch TV, listen to radio or go on the internet
10. I do not allow electric to be brought into my house, own a car, or go to the county fair

No, I don't do any of these things, Lord. I am not like all those other church people out in the world. I drive horse and buggy and stay away from bright colors. Oh Lord, if only the English church people could be more like me, then You would never have to return and end the world.

Oh friend, if this is a description of your thoughts and way of life, you are to be congratulated for your hard and dedicated work. If *eternal life* (new birth) came about from living that kind of lifestyle, surely, you would be on the front line of entering God's kingdom. However, as Jesus plainly teaches us in the next few verses, this kind of belief is so much like that of the Pharisees. They had it all together, as far as the outward appearance went, but like the following Scripture points out that God is far more concerned about our heart condition than He is about the outward appearance.

**Mark 7:6-9**

He [Jesus] answered and said unto them, ...as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, **BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME.**

**HOWBEIT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME,** teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men..

And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition.

Many generations before, in the Old Testament, God spoke to the prophet Samuel and said:

...for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart. **1 Samuel 16:7**

The LORD judges a person by his heart and his heart alone.

What does your heart look like? Have you allowed God to replace the OLD HEART with a NEW HEART, such as explained in Ezekiel 36?

**Ezekiel 36:25-27**

**A NEW HEART** also will I give you, and **a NEW SPIRIT** will I put within you:

Do you have the NEW SPIRIT living within you?

**THE SECOND BIRTH IS NOT SOMETHING WE DO**

My dear Amish brother and sister in the

flesh, the *new birth* is NOT something you and I DO. Even if God gave us one thousand years to get it right, we can't do it.

If you haven't already, will you Give up! Let go! Quit trying! STOP!

This *new birth* is entirely a work of God. Jesus tells us that we are not even capable of coming to Him on our own. The Father has to draw us to Himself.

**John 6:44**

No man can come to me, **EXCEPT THE FATHER WHICH HATH SENT ME DRAW HIM...**

**John 6:65**

And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, **EXCEPT IT WERE GIVEN UNTO HIM OF MY FATHER.**

Do you see and understand what we just read? We cannot even go to God unless He decides to draw us to Himself. We are helpless! We are completely at His mercy!

**Titus 3:5**

Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to **HIS MERCY** He saved us...

Before the new birth takes place in a person's life, that person is a dead spirit; therefore, he can do nothing spiritually just as a dead body can do nothing physically.

The apostle Paul writes:

**Romans 3:11-12**

There is none that understandeth, **THERE IS NONE THAT SEEKETH AFTER GOD.** They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

There is not a single human being on the face of the earth that seeks after God. No, not even one in 7 billion people alive on this earth right now! And, unless the Father draws us to Himself, we will never in a thousand years go to Him.

The Father has to draw us to Himself, convict us of our sin, and show us that we are in desperate need of a new birth experience.

**John 3:5-6**

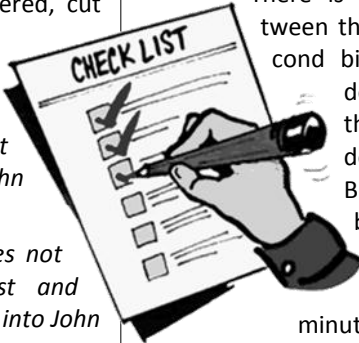
Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be **BORN OF WATER** and **OF THE SPIRIT**, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the **FLESH IS FLESH**; and that which is born of the **SPIRIT IS SPIRIT.**



1. In order to enter or see this physical world, we had to first be born in the flesh.
2. To enter or see God's spiritual kingdom, we have to be born in the spirit.

Here are some things we know about the first birth:

- I am flesh that can be seen with eyes and felt with fingers.
  - I did not pull myself together one day and give me legs, arms, nose, brains, ears, eye balls, kidneys, blood, etc.
  - I became flesh, just like my father.
  - I inherited the family name
  - My father will always be my father. I will always be his son. Our fellowship may at times be hindered but the father/son relationship can never be severed, cut off, or given away.
  - At birth, my parents wrote out a birth certificate that reads: *On February 1, 1967 at 5:02am, Joe was born into John and Laura's family.*
- Note:** *My birth certificate does not read, "between February 1st and March 8th, 1967, Joe was born into John and Laura's family".*
- I can never be unborn in the flesh or re-born. It was a onetime physical birth that allowed me entrance to the physical world.



Most of us would agree thus far, but you ask, how does the second birth work? In a nut shell, the second birth works in many of the same ways that the physical birth does. It happens on a certain date and at an exact time.

- Everyone who is born again should have two birth certificates.
- Just like you celebrate your physical birth every year, so you should celebrate your spiritual birth every year.
- When you were born into your earthly family and took on the family name, so it is when you are born into God's family; you take on the family name—Christian
- The Bible does not talk about a third and fourth birth. There are only two. The first one is physical, and allows entrance into the physical world; the se-

cond one is spiritual, and allows entrance into the spiritual world.

- Just like your earthly father corrected and disciplined you, so your heavenly Father will also correct and discipline you. That is, if you have been born into His family. Look what the Bible says:

**Hebrews 12:7-9**

*God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.*

*Furthermore, we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?*

There is one big difference between the first birth and the second birth; our earthly father does not have any part in the second birth. Neither do you, the church or the Bishop. No, the second birth is a work of God and God alone.

But you say, wait a minute, I have to do something. Yes, you are right. You have to believe, which we will get into later, however, beyond that you can do nothing. Let me explain what I mean.

Suppose you came along one day and said, "Joe, I am right in the middle of getting born again, and this is how I'm doing it:"

1. I changed a few areas of my life and went from sinning 9 times a day, down to only 3 times a day.
2. I am training my mind to think more about God and heaven, rather than earthly things. Compared to a year ago, I have come a long.
3. The last few times the deacon came around and asked for money, I gave twice as much to the needs of the church.
4. The Lord knows, I have been doing a lot better with my anger and bitterness problem. I don't argue near as much with my spouse and family.
5. I got rid of all the things that the church doesn't want me to have.

6. I have joined the church, got baptized, and for the most part, I have been a member in good standing.
7. When I reflect back over my life, I have to say, "I am not the same person I used to be. Give me some more time and I will even get better at this whole process of becoming born again."



Do you see how unreasonable these answers really are? The truth is, God requires

much more than that; He requires 100% perfection before He allows us into His kingdom. Yes! 100% perfection. Jesus said so Himself.

**Matthew 5:48**

**BE YE THEREFORE PERFECT, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.**

That is why an extra thousand years of life will never be enough time for us to get it right. However, through the sacrificial death of Jesus Christ on the cross, those who have been born again, have **ALREADY** been made perfect.

**Hebrews 10:14**

*For by one offering He (Jesus) **HATH PERFECTED FOR EVER** them that are sanctified.*

Sinnyng less than last year makes us better, but not perfect. Going to church, giving more money, arguing less with my spouse, being more friendly, reading more Bible, being Amish, or living a more simple and humble lifestyle makes us better, but not perfect.

There is only one way to be perfect and that is to experience the *new birth* that Jesus talked to Nicodemus about. It has to happen before we die and go into eternity. For the Bible is clear, after death comes the judgment.

**Hebrews 9:27**

*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

**THE SECOND BIRTH IS SOMETHING GOD DOES**

**John 1:13**

*Which were born [again], not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will*

of man, **BUT OF GOD.**

**IT IS NOT BY BLOOD:** *The idea is that heritage—being born of a particular family, race, nation or people—is of no value in becoming a child of God. Blood is not what causes the new birth.*

**It is not by the will of the flesh:** *The idea is that a person is not spiritually born again by wanting and willing to become a child of God just like a person wills to have an earthly child.*

**It is not by the will of man:** *No man, no matter who he is—husband or world leader—can cause or make a person a child of God. It is strictly a gift of God.*

### The new birth is of God and God alone!

—POSB Commentary

The *new birth* is an act of God whereby *eternal life* is imparted to the person who believes.

This *eternal life* is needed, because when we sinned, we died spiritually, meaning we became separated from God.

### Romans 6:23

*For the wages [payment] of sin is (spiritual) death...*

### James 1:15

*...sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth (spiritual) death.*

As discussed earlier in our lesson, spiritually dead people are just like physically dead people. They can't hear. They can't see. They are dead! And, unless God imparts (*eternal*) life to the spiritually dead person through a new birth experience, s/he will pass into eternity lost and forever separated from God and His kingdom.

The apostle Paul tells us in Romans that while we were dead, blind, lost, and wondering in a wilderness of sin and separation from God, Jesus Christ came to earth and paid the price that God required for your sin.



### Romans 5:8-9

*But God commendeth [proved] His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified [made right] by His blood, we shall be saved from (God's) wrath through Him.*

Jesus, when explaining the new birth to Nicodemus, went back to the Old Testament, and pointed out a very familiar story of how Moses lifted up a bronze serpent in the wilderness. Those who had been bit by fiery snakes (sin) and were dying, however, anyone who looked upon the *lifted serpent* and believed was instantly healed and lived.

### John 3:14-16

*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: **THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.** For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever *believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

Some time ago, I was talking to a friend of mine who was already in her 50's. She said, "Joe, just yesterday, I was reading some Bible verses and all of a sudden it dawned on me, there is only one thing a person can do to receive the gift of eternal life and that is *believe in Jesus.*" She went on to say, "At that very moment,



it became very clear, it does not say anything about a person's hair being cut a certain way; it just says *believe.*"

I looked at Lena and said, you are right. It does not say, if you get baptized, become a church member, do good works and believe in Jesus, you will receive the gift eternal life. It simply says, "**THAT WHOSOEVER BELIEVETH IN HIM SHOULD NOT PERISH, BUT HAVE ETERNAL LIFE.**"

When the prison keeper, in Acts 16:30-31, fell down at the feet of Paul and Silas, he cried out...

*"Sirs, **WHAT MUST I DO to be saved?**"*  
*"And they said, **BELIEVE ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST** and thou shalt be saved"*

My dear friend, it does not matter if you are

8 years old or 80 years old, if you have never been born the second time, you can be. All you have to do is *believe* on the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus said plainly, the moment you believe, you receive everlasting life and pass from (spiritual) death to (everlasting) life.

### John 5:24

*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth My word, and believeth on him that sent Me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*

Some people will read this whole lesson on



how to be born again and still believe that believing in Christ alone is not enough. They will tell themselves,

"surely there is something I have to do, beyond just believe". If that is you still think, than please look at the words of the Apostle Paul:

### Romans 10:3-4

*FOR THEY BEING IGNORANT OF GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND GOING ABOUT TO ESTABLISH THEIR OWN RIGHTEOUSNESS, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God. **FOR CHRIST IS THE END OF THE LAW FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS TO EVERY ONE THAT BELIEVETH.***

At some point, a decision has to be made; am I going to base my righteousness on how well I follow the law, or, am I going to simply believe that "**CHRIST IS THE END OF THE LAW FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS TO EVERY ONE THAT BELIEVETH?**"

### IT IS YOUR CHOICE!

The Bible verses that follow are ever so clear. All that mankind desires—God's righteousness and salvation—ARE FOUND WITHIN A PERSON'S MOUTH AND HEART.

### Romans 10:8-13

*But what saith it? The word is nigh thee, even in thy mouth, and in thy heart: that is, the word of faith, which we preach;*

*That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.*

*FOR WITH THE HEART MAN BELIEVETH UN-*

TO RIGHTEOUSNESS; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.

For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him.

For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved (born again).

"The word "whosoever" means anyone and everyone, no matter who they are. It means any person, any race, any color, any environment, background, country or family.

It does not make any difference if the person

is moral or immoral, just or unjust, poor or wealthy, popular or unpopular,



diseased or healthy.

"Whosoever" means that any person can be saved, no matter who he is. S/he may be in the depths of the inner city or in the depths of the jungle, and s/he may be enslaved by the most terrible spirit of sin and evil imaginable—God will still save any

person who calls on His name for salvation.

**John 20:27-31**

Then saith He (Jesus) to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold My hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not faithless, but **BELIEVING**.

This study was written by Joe Keim, for the Amish Voice, in hopes that my people, the Amish, might better understand that eternal life only comes from believing in Jesus Christ. If your eyes have been opened up to truth that you never realized before, would you write me and share your story?

**Bible Prophecies That Have Already Come True; Others That Are Coming True**



**1. The Jewish people would be scattered worldwide; yet Israel would become a nation again. This happened exactly as predicted, May 14, 1948. (See Ref: Isa 66:8; Mic 5:3)**

Note: Israel was destroyed in approximately 721 B.C.; Judah about 135 years later. For the last 2,500 years, approximately fourteen different people groups have possessed the land of Israel. Nevertheless, the Bible showed that the day would come when the nation of Israel would be reborn.

**2. Israel shall be brought forth in one day, at once. Prophecy fulfilled, May 14, 1948. (See Ref: Isa 66:8)**

Note: On Nov. 29, 1947, the General Assembly of the U.N. approved a resolution calling for the establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. On the morning of May 14, 1948 (the last day of the British mandate), a meeting of the People's Council took place in Israel to decide on the name of the state and to finalize the declaration. That day, David Ben-Gurion rapped his gavel, declaring, "The State of Israel is established. This meeting is ended." Israel was brought forth as a nation in one day, at once. It happened exactly as predicted.

**3. Israel must regain the city of Jerusalem. This happened just as predicted in 1967. (See Ref: Joel 2:32; Isa 28:14; Ezek 22:19)**

Note: Israel was reborn on May 14th, 1948 as noted previously.

**4. The Christian church at the time of the end would be lukewarm, neither cold nor hot for Jesus.**

Note: God will spew them out. Many church leaders and people

that call themselves a Christian and are sure they are saved will not be going to heaven. The Bible tells us—you have acquired wealth, but your true condition is wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked and you don't know it—Rev 3:14-22. This is today's church.

Many churches preach very little Scripture, but lots of worldly stories. Many sing a great deal, but put very little emphasis on repentance, obeying, serving, and fearing God, the fruits of the Spirit, Bible prophecy, water baptism by immersion, and studying your Bible faithfully every day.

**5. The Bible gives us over 50 descriptions about the people at the time of the end. Here are some:**

- A. People would have no conscience—1 Tim 4:1,2.
- B. People would mock about the last days and not believe—2 Peter 3:3; Jude 18.
- C. People would become lovers of themselves—2 Tim 3:1,2.
- D. People would be grateful for nothing—2 Tim 3:1,2.
- E. Homosexuality would increase—Luke 17:28,30; Ref Gen 19:5; Ro 1:24,26,27.
- F. People would be without self-control in sex—2 Tim 3:1,2,6; Rev 9:21, Lk 17:28,30; Jude 7.
- G. People would be untrustworthy, friends would betray friends—2 Tim 3:1-3.
- H. People would love pleasures more than God—2 Tim 3:1,2,4.
- I. People would be taking drugs—Rev 9:21. The Greek word for sorceries, in Rev 9:21, means pharmaceuticals or drugs. God's Word is 100% right on every one.

Note: Fifty years ago, many people never locked their doors at night.

**6. There would be weapons that could destroy the world. This prophecy is true. (See Ref: Mark 13:20; Rev 6:8; Rev 9:18; Zech 14:8,12)**

Note: When in our history would anyone have ever thought this possible? It is estimated that the combined nuclear arsenals of the USA and Russia (as of the year 2000) could kill every living thing on earth 6 times over. — (Continued on next page) —

Following the recent earthquake in Haiti, agencies from all over the world swooped into the country and set up rescue efforts as well as feeding and tending to the health needs of those caught in the disaster. Some of these aid workers were Christian, many were not. Canada and The USA had their armed forces involved.

Had you asked them “Why are you here”, they might have said, “I was ordered to serve here”. It might have been part of their job description. You would expect all kinds of replies.

Some were probably Jewish, some Muslim, and some were simply government employees.

Rest assured, if you or I had been caught in the rubble of a collapsed building, we would not have been too concerned who got us out. Just get me out, we’ll talk later. A good deed is always a good deed, no matter who does it.

In our life in this country, we also have good deeds done by non-Christian people. There is no denying that a life saved is a good deed, no matter who did it. For example, if someone does free housing, dental or medical work among those who cannot afford it, that is good. But how shall we know whether a good deed indicates faith?

Likewise, in a church we have people doing good deeds. Some do it out of faith in Jesus Christ, some for other reasons. Two people may do exactly the same thing, yet for entirely different reasons.

A believer’s deeds can be copied exactly by another person but that does not make that person a believer. Sometimes good unbelievers outdo believers. That does not make

a good deed a bad deed.

Now, we expect a believer to have good deeds because in James 2; 14 it says *What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? Can faith save him?*

In a church, when people are doing good deeds, can we then assume that they have faith? If not, how shall we know the difference?

I remember during my school days, a hobo walked up the road by our schoolhouse. He, in an effort to distract the unwanted attention he was getting from the entire crowd said “Your schoolhouse is on fire.” We assured him it was not. He then asked “Is that not smoke?” pointing to the chimney. “Of course” said we. “Where there’s smoke, there’s fire” he replied. That was the first time I recall hearing that saying.



But in the real world, smoke can be faked.

Just as there has to be real fire to make real smoke, so there has to be real faith to make real good works. But as can be seen above, works can be counterfeited.

If your life lacks works matching your expected faith, and someone points it out, do

you then proceed to do good deeds? That is so easy to do and it satisfies the observer. Therein lies a problem. If you insist on a set of works, I can easily fulfill that. It does not solve the problem at hand.

If your faith is weak, it needs to be made stronger. How do you go about doing that? If you want smoke, you have to work on the fire. Faith underlies works as fire underlies smoke.

1 John 3:17 says; *But whoso hath this world’s good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?*

Clearly, if God’s love lives in us, it will spill out. But let it come from faith.

Therefore if your faith needs building up, you will need to go to God’s word; that is the Bible.

Romans 10; 17 says; *So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

That is the reason we always tell you to base your faith on what is written in the Bible. Otherwise, you too will have smoke without the fire, or deeds without the faith.

If faith underlies my works, I will have to say, “Jesus asked me to do this.” Otherwise, I am no better than the employee that does it for pay.

So we can conclude that the words have to be there as well as the deeds.

May we cry out as did the father in Mark 9:24 *And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.*

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— (Continued from previous page) —

**7. There would be an increase in earthquakes. (See Ref: Mat 24:2,3,7; Mark 13:8; Luke 21:11)**

*Note: In this last generation, research from the U.S. Geological Survey, National Earthquake Information Center reveals that major earthquakes of a magnitude of 6.0 or higher have remained relatively constant during this century. However, the total number of earthquakes in recent years appear to be rising. For example, it was reported that in 1986, the total number of earthquakes was 12,718. In 1990, it was 16,612. In 1994, it was 19,371.*

**8. The Gospel must be preached in all the world. (Ref: Mk 13:10)**



*Note: In this last generation, to our knowledge, the Gospel is being published (or is about to be published) in the primary language of every nation of the world or “among all nations.” Yet when this prophecy was made, the possibility of such a thing would have seemed impossible. There was no printing press or any means to do such a thing.*

**9. There would be a nation to the far east of Israel, to the end of the earth. This nation would have an army of 200 million. This is absolutely astounding. It is estimated by some that the population of the entire world at the time of Christ was only about 200 million. How then could the Bible have ever told the location of a nation and given such a figure as the size of its army nearly 2000 years ago. China has boasted that they could field an army of this exact figure.**



Jesus said, ...'Upon this rock I will build My church and the gates of hell will not prevail against it'.

So why is it that the church seems to be in a state of confusion and powerlessness? It seems there is an ungodly fear of darkness, evil, wickedness, etc. creeping into our plain churches.

There may be several reasons why Christian people lose their power and authority that Jesus commissioned to His people.

Lets take a look at Luke chapter 9.

**Luke 9:1-2**, Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over **ALL DEVILS**, and to cure diseases. And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick.

Here we see that Jesus gave his disciples power and authority over ALL devils... but as we continue to read in this chapter, we will see that the disciples lost that power and authority that Jesus had commissioned to them. In verse 40, we can clearly see that the disciples were unable to cast the spirit out.

**Luke 9:38-40**, And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine only child. And, lo, a spirit taketh him, and he suddenly crieth out; and it teareth him that he foameth again, and bruising him hardly departeth from him. And I besought thy disciples to cast him out; and they could not.

Do you think the disciples were puzzled as to why they lost what they were commissioned to do?

Today, this may be where many of us will stop and decide, we need more than what Jesus has promised us, because it appears as though Jesus was unable to keep what he commissioned His people to have. This kind of thinking comes from the enemy as he is trying to destroy our faith.

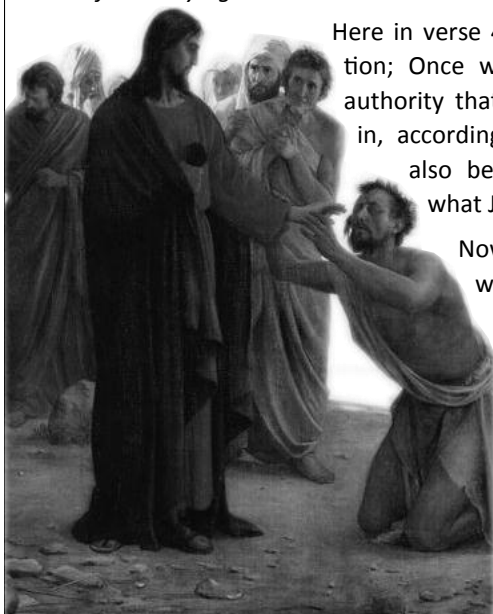
**Verse 44**, Jesus said, Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men.

**Verse 45**, But they understood not this saying, and it was hid from them, that they perceived it not: and they feared to ask him of that saying.

Here in verse 45, is another observation; Once we lose the power and authority that Jesus wants us to live in, according to verse 45, we may also be unable to understand what Jesus is telling us.

Now in verse 46, I believe we will find why the disciples lost their power and authority that Jesus wanted them to walk in.

**Verse 46**, Then there arose a reasoning among them, WHICH OF THEM SHOULD BE GREATEST.



This makes a clear picture to me. Once we as individuals, families, churches, or denominations start reasoning amongst ourselves on who is the greatest, we lose the power and authority that Jesus has commissioned to us. I think this mindset also includes thoughts like,

1. I have a closer relationship with Jesus than you do.
2. Our church has a closer walk with Jesus than 'their' church does.

Lets stay clear of thoughts that will make us powerless. These thoughts will bring us into captivity, whether we know it or not.

Remember how Moses went to Egypt with special instructions from God; To deliver the Hebrew Children from captivity.

It seemed that ever since Moses showed up there the Hebrews had to work harder and faster. The Hebrews asked Moses to leave. They saw him as one that's agitating Pharaoh's anger, which in turn was making their own lives more difficult.

**Exodus 5:21-23**, And they said unto them, The LORD look upon you, and judge; because ye have made our saviour to be abhorred in the eyes of Pharaoh, and in the eyes of his servants, to put a sword in their hand to slay us.



And Moses returned unto the LORD, and said, Lord, wherefore hast thou so evil entreated this people? why is it that thou hast sent me?

For since I came to Pharaoh to speak in thy name, he hath done evil to this people; neither hast thou delivered thy people at all.

Moses turned to the Lord, because things were not going as Moses had planned. This looked like an impossible situation to Moses. He's telling God that He's not delivering His people at all. All of Egypt is stirred up. It seemed like Moses is rejected by Pharaoh, Egyptians, and also the Hebrews who were to be delivered by him. Here it looked like God is not keeping His Word. Why this??

**Exodus 6:1**, Then the LORD said unto Moses, **NOW** shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong hand shall he drive them out of his land.

Notice 'when'? The Lord's first word to Moses, "Now" Moses was at the end of his personal recourses. God was building a strong leader by getting Moses to humble himself and come to the end of 'himself'.

Notice 'Who will do'? God!! Once Moses was undone, then God was ready to use him in a special way.

How is it with you and me, my Christian brothers and sisters? Do we still have personal abilities, talents, capabilities, intellect, etc. that actually interfere with the purpose that God has for you and me?

**1Peter 5:6-7**, Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time: Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

Lets walk in the power and authority that God wants us to walk in. The gates of hell will not prevail against it.

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Happy Spring, Ladies! 😊

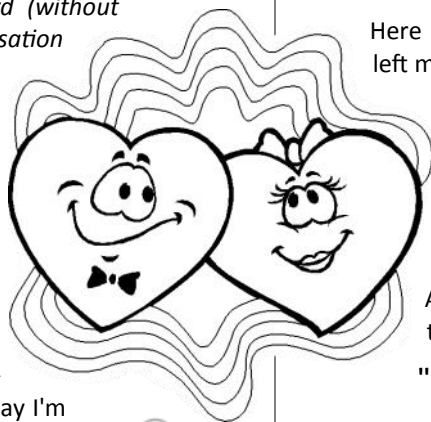
Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD. (Psalm 150:6)

Wow! I have breath, do all of you others? So maybe we should burst out in song right now! In fact the whole chapter of Psalm 150 is about praising God with everything that makes noise and everything we can do!!

I wanted to study 1 Peter 3:1-2 with you all. "Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, (the Bible) they also may without the word (without reading the Bible) be won by the conversation (behavior) of the wives; while they behold (notice) your chaste conversation (pure behavior) coupled with fear (reverence for God)."

There was a time that these verses intimidated me to no end; why should I change first, he wouldn't notice anyway! And it felt like losing control of my life to begin submitting to someone who wasn't Godly. And if I changed and drew closer to God first, wouldn't that make him think, "She's ok with the way I'm living"?? Oh, yes, I had serious issues with those verses!! 😊

But I was forgetting a very important thing! THIS IS GOD'S WORD! If He says to do so, then I must DO so. And, evidently He thought it would work or He wouldn't have wrote it!



Yes, I believe with all my heart that it works! A lot of times the less control a wife has the more God can do. There's definitely a reason God said men are the head of the home; with wives at the helm, marriages are headed for shipwreck 100% of the time!!

Men WANT their wives to know their own identity in Christ, they don't want us to be helpless and basically not have a life except through them. They are human and there's NO way they can fulfill us. But when we have Christ in us, we can love our husbands out of the overflow of God's love and, trust me, most husbands find that ever so irresistible! 😊

Here is something a friend shared with me recently that just left me speechless (and that doesn't happen very often!)

**"A woman's heart should be so hidden in Christ, that a man should have to seek Him first to find her."**

Isn't that beautiful!!! I mean, really, we all want to play "hard to get" and have our husbands pursue us. Why not do it God's way?? Sounds like fun to me!!

And, I know I've said it before, but this is SO important that I get to say it over and over. 😊

**"...and the wife, see (make sure) that she reverence her husband." (Eph. 5:33)**

Praise God for His PERFECT plan!!

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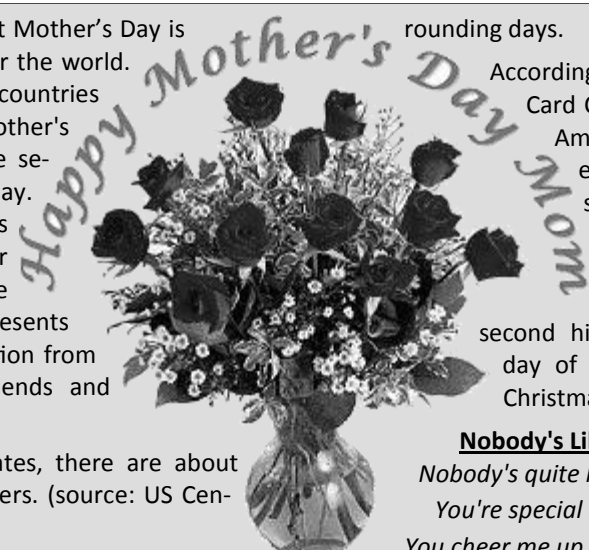
Did you know that Mother's Day is celebrated all over the world.

The majority of countries that celebrate Mother's Day do so on the second Sunday of May. On this day, it is common for Mothers to be lavished with presents and special attention from their families, friends and loved ones.

In the United States, there are about 82.5 million mothers. (source: US Census Bureau)

The National Retail Foundation predicts Mother's Day is a \$14 Billion industry, offering demographic spend breakdowns.

- Florists see their highest sales in May.
- US restaurants claim that it is the busiest day of the year.
- More long distance calls are made on Mother's Day than any other day.
- The US Postal Service experiences increased volume during the sur-



rounding days.

According to the Hallmark Card Company, 96% of American consumers take part in shopping on Mother's Day, while retailers report it as the second highest gift giving day of the year behind Christmas.

**Nobody's Like You, Mom**

*Nobody's quite like you, Mom.  
You're special in every way.  
You cheer me up, you fill my cup  
With tenderness, come what may.  
Nobody loves me like you, Mom.  
No matter what I do,  
Good or bad, happy or sad,  
You support me; You always come through.  
Nobody's equal to you, Mom.  
With you in my life, I'm blessed.  
I love you so, and I want you to know  
I think you're the very best!*

—By Joanna Fuchs

**Pennsylvania Deitsh Testament**



If you would like to obtain a New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs in Pennsylvania Deitsh, they are available for \$13.95

postpaid from the **Committee for Translation, 3864 Township Road 162, Sugarcreek, OH 44681. Phone 330-852-4663.**

You do not need to send money ahead of time; they will bill you with your order. Your local Christian bookstore may also have them available.

In making this translation, the committee's purpose was two-fold: 1) to adhere as closely as possible to the Textus Receptus Greek text, which is closely associated with Luther's (German) and the Authorized (English) version, the two versions most commonly in use by the Amish, and 2) to make the translation in fluent everyday Pennsylvania Deitsh as it is spoken in the home.

The translation procedures and principles used in this translation are basically those employed by the Wycliffe Bible Translators, and the exegesis closely follows their series of in-house "Exegetical Helps". The final manuscript was checked for exegetical accuracy by New Testament Greek specialists from the Translation Department of the Wycliffe Bible Translators.

—Cont from back page—

Since their attitudes are reflections of your own, you need only change your attitude, and the reflections will change.

I know you are only expressing your displeasure over their foolishness. You are using your disapproving scowl as a threat to induce them to shame. They are supposed to so crave your approval that they make great sacrifices to win your smile. It is not working is it? Actually, you are working against the very thing you desire to achieve.

There is a natural principle you must understand: Children living under condemnation are not motivated to good works. None of us seek to please someone who is condemning us. You have trained your face to display a nearly constant look of disapproval, disappointment, and frustration. You may nag or gripe them into relenting to your will, but you can never bad-attitude them into a good attitude. Children cannot be intimidated into positive character. To stand off and criticize their performance will not induce them to a rectifying shame. No one has ever been motivated to climb out from under a pile of disapproval to win the praise and affections of his or her accuser.

The law of human nature is such that condemnation and shame cause an alienation that only produces more disobedience. Paul said

*“The motions of sins, which were by the law, did work in our members to bring forth fruit unto death (Romans 7:5).”*  
*“Because the law worketh wrath... (Romans 4:15).”*

But if you become so disappointed with their failure that you assume an air of judicial condemnation, they will unwillingly accept the blame, but THEY WILL NOT HAVE

THE MORAL COURAGE TO CHANGE. Law and condemnation never produce righteousness. If you are always ready to show them what is wrong, but do not constant-



ly exemplify what is right, they will cower under your judgments while continuing to grow into the likeness of your graceless bitterness.

The parental spirit of displeasure holds the child in “death.” A new spirit in the parent will allow the child to serve from a joyous spirit and not from the strengthless bondage of legal depression. In our relationship to God, it is called “newness of spirit.”

*“But now we are delivered from the law, that being dead wherein we were held; that we should serve in newness of spirit, and not in the oldness of the letter (Romans 7:5-6).”*

Mother, if every time you looked at your husband you saw dissatisfaction and disappointment, if he sighed with defeat over what a lousy wife you are, would you feel inspired to make improvements? Absolutely not! You would withdraw. If you are spunky in spirit, you might fight back and give him further reason for rejection, but if you are broken in spirit you would quietly withdraw. You would then seek friendship and approval elsewhere.

Your children will begin to develop positive character only in an atmosphere of forgiveness and acceptance. The first step to recovery and the ground on which it continues is the parent’s smile. In our book, *To Train Up A Child*, we have a chapter called *Tying Strings*. Parent, you need to tie strings

of fellowship through your smiles, strings of trust through a display of trust, strings of respect through mutual respect, strings of kindness, grace, and forgiveness. You can not disapprove your children into heart compliance, but you can example them in, smile them in, care them in, patience them in, and woo them in with a heart that exemplifies Christ-like character.

If “*the joy of the Lord is our strength*” surely the joy of the parents is the strength of a child. If fellowship with God provokes His children to holiness, what will be the result of a child’s fellowship with his parents? The best training is done under the supervision of a smile. There is a time for discipline, rebuke, spanking, and even controlled anger, but such should be temporary signposts on a path of communion that you walk with your children. If they see your delight and appreciation, they will have the courage to try to maintain that sweetness.

Parent, relax. Lay back. Slow down. Enjoy the trip. If you can’t train your children to meet your high standards, lower the standards until they can reach them. We are not talking about the law of God. We are talking about muddy feet, carrying out the garbage, picking up dirty clothes, doing school work, etc.. Put the bar low enough so that with the effort they are willing to give, they can clear the hurdle and finish each day a winner. Raise the bar a little at a time so they can improve, but will always be a winner. If you set the standard, not beyond their abilities, but beyond their willing efforts, you will cause them to cease trying.

Find a place to confess your sins, and then go smile at your children.

—Article by Michael Pearl

**No Greater Joy**  
**1000 Pearl Road**  
**Pleasantville, TN 37033**

**Comments made in the year 1955!**

- (1) I'll tell you one thing, if things keep going the way they are, it's going to be impossible to buy a week's groceries for \$10.00.
- (2) Did you hear, the post office is thinking

- about charging 7 cents just to mail a letter.
- (3) Who would have thought that gas would someday cost 25 cents a gallon?
- (4) There is no sense going on short trips anymore, it costs nearly \$2.00 a night to stay in a hotel.

**First Happen Facts**

- (1) An American cow called Fawn was not afraid of flying. In May 1963, she was swept up by a tornado and carried half a mile, only to land safely in another farmer's field. Five years later, another tornado carried her over a bus. She survived this too, and lived to the ripe old age of 25.
- (2) The record for the biggest one day rainfall was set on Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean, on March 15, 1952, where 74 inches of rain fell in 24 hours.

- (3) The first toothbrush with bristles was developed in China in 1498. Bristles were taken from hogs at first, later from horses. The nylon bristles were developed in 1938 by DuPont.
- (4) It was discovered on a space mission that a frog can throw up. The frog throws up its stomach first, so that the stomach is dangling out of it's mouth. Then the frog uses its' forearms to dig out all of the stomach's contents and then swallows the stomach back down again.

Current Resident

## Bad Attitude

— By Michael Pearl

In one of our recent seminars, a mother complained to Debi, “The children frustrate me so much...

...I tell them to do their school work, and they just piddle around. I tell them to clean up their rooms, and they fuss over who is to clean up what. They are always irritating one another. It frustrates me so much, trying to cause them to maintain a good attitude. They are always complaining and whining about something. I get frustrated and spank them, but it seems to do no good. They just don't seem to care. They

pick on each other continuously. I get so frustrated....”

Debi interrupted her mournful complaint.



plaints to answer, “Yes, it is an attitude problem.” The weary mother hastily agreed, “That’s it! They have bad attitudes.” Debi responded, “No, it’s you that has the bad attitude.” The mother’s widening eyes and gaping mouth expressed her dismay as she stood waiting for the forthcoming explanation.

Are you a frustrated parent? Is your brow drawn tight as if pulled by draw strings? If parenting is not enjoyable, be assured, you have a bad attitude. When your children look into your face what do they see? They are not fooled. They know what you feel toward them. Your face is a graph of approval or rejection. Verbal “positive affirmation” is not enough; in fact, it is worse than nothing if there is not genuine delight in your heart. Children can see through a parent who is made of muddy water. If they see disappointment and criticism they will answer in kind. Discontented parents breed discontented children. Your attitude is the root of the family attitude tree. A bitter root cannot produce sweet fruit.

Parental attitudes are highly contagious, and

the children usually come down with a worse case. “More is caught than taught.” And children seem more highly susceptible to catching a bad attitude than of being taught to have a good one. They can catch the disease of bad attitude while being passive. On the other hand, they must exert themselves to have a good attitude.

Your children are playing follow-the-leader. They are deaf to your words, but they “hear” your attitude loud and clear. Example has always been more effective than theory. Where parents are constantly modeling the bad attitude; a good attitude is just a theoretical concept to the child. Try as they may, they can’t quite fathom the meaning of a good attitude—it has been so long since they have seen one. If you dress your children in tight pinching shoes, don’t blame them for having sore feet.

The bad news is that you are responsible for the condition of your children. The good news is that you don’t have to be frustrated over attempting to change them. You only need to change yourself.

—Cont Page 11—