

SPIRITUAL INSIGHT FOR YOUR LIFE

FAITH *for life*

*“The **life** which I now live...I live by the **faith** of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.” Galatians 2:20*

Complimentary Copy

Volume 2, Issue 3

• from the Ministry of Fargo Baptist Church

• Summer Quarter Edition, 2009

FEAR *factor*

by Pastor Tony Scheving

“For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.”

II Timothy 1:7

Former advice columnist Ann Landers received thousands of letters every month seeking helpful counsel. She once stated that the most common problem people struggle with is... fear. People have fears of heights, water, snakes, giving speeches and even the dentist. They have currently diagnosed over 700 phobias, but in general many people just plain have a **fear of life**. Charlie Brown once told his counselor Lucy, he now had a new philosophy ...to dread only one day at a time. Someone well said that fear is ‘sand in the machinery of life’. While most people hide their fears and insecurities, it can still ‘strangle the joy’ out of life. Many who live with a fear of failure play it safe, which limits their effectiveness in life. Stanley Jones said, “Johnny’s fears and Mary’s tears, will make them old before their years.” Horace once said, “he who lives in fear will



never be a free man.” Fear cripples and maims the quality of life.

The Intimidation of Fear

An Arab man was sentenced to die for spying. The Persian officer offered him either the firing squad, or to face what was behind the big black door. The mind of the condemned man whirled as he considered all the horrible things behind the big black door. He finally told the

officer “I’ll take the firing squad.” Soon shots rang out and the condemned man slumped over dead. The officer said to another soldier “they always choose the known over the unknown.” “What’s behind the big black door” asked the soldier? “Absolutely nothing ...there’s freedom behind the door, but fear of the unknown prevents anyone from considering

that option.” According to an old German proverb, ‘fear makes the wolf bigger than he actually is’. Fear is an intimidating foe. Fear is evidenced in ways such as: heart attacks, brain aneurisms, or just a shorter life span. Studies show that over a million Americans seldom leave their houses due to fear. Sometimes fear is the result of our own sin. Before Adam sinned, he had sweet fellowship with God. His sin caused him to hide from God in fear (Gen 3:8). Often fear is

continued on next page

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
FARGO, ND
PERMIT #2115

FAITH *for life*
FARGO BAPTIST CHURCH
3303 23 AVE S
FARGO, ND • 58103

the result of worrying what others think of us. Sometimes teenagers try to make a statement by wearing a T-shirt which says “No Fear.” It’s hard not to smile as you think of the paradox of their T-shirt, knowing how paranoid teens are about fitting in with the crowd. The Bible says, *“The fear of man bringeth a snare”* (Prov 29:25). Kids will drink whiskey when they’d actually prefer a milkshake. They’ll smoke cigarettes even if they hate the taste. They’ll wear ridiculous attire and pierce their bodies in unbelievable and painful places trying to ‘fit in’ due to peer pressure. Even Christian kids can worry about copying the world. The Bible says, *“Thus saith the LORD, Learn not the way of the heathen”* (Jer 10:2). Fear can be intimidating, all because we worry about what people will think of us. Some claim they don’t ‘care what people think’. In all honesty, everyone wants to be approved, respected and loved. No one wants to be an outcast. Many times Christian people even compromise and cave in due to intimidation. Nicodemus along with Joseph of Arimathaea were both “closet Christians” due to pressure from the world. If you really live for God in the 21st century people will think you’re a nut or a fanatic. The prophet Jeremiah said “I am in derision daily, every one mocketh me.” When people see a real Christian they roll their eyes or raise their eyebrows. There’s even a “Christian culture” which tries to stay in step with the culture of the world. God said, *“Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings”* (Isa 51:7). Christians need to stop being intimidated by the world. In the Bible we find the Jews demanding a king so they could be like the other nations (I Sam 15:24). Fear of what others thought kept the parents of a blind man from placing their faith in Jesus (John 9:22). It was fear of the people that caused Pontus Pilate to cave in and crucify Jesus unjustly. Fear can be intimidating. The Psalmist said, *“While I suffer thy terrors I am distracted”* (Ps 88:15).

The Inwardness of Fear

The Bible says in I John 4:18, *“Perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.”* When we’re fearful it’s normally because we are focused on ourselves. Love says, “What can I do for others?” Fear says, “What’s going to happen to me?” Love is self-giving while fear is self-protecting. When our eyes are on ourselves, we lose our trust in God. When Elijah feared Jezebel, it was because his eyes were no longer on the Lord. Studies show that 60% of all fears are totally unfounded. 20% of fears are actually behind us in the past. 10% of all fears are so petty they’re without any substance at all. 5% of all fears are over things that are out of our control. That leaves only 5% of things we fear actually having any basis to them. Sadly, fear causes us to forget the whole purpose of life ...which is to bring glory to God. The Bible says, *“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God”* (I Cor 10:31). So what good is fear, and why did our Creator wire us with such an emotion? Evidently all fear is not bad. Actually the Bible tells us in I Peter 1:17, To pass the time of your sojourning (pilgrimage through life) here in fear. In reality, a healthy fear will keep us out of trouble when we realize the consequences of sin. God’s not trying to spoil our fun. He’s trying to keep us from the self-destruction of sin. The ultimate reason God gave us the quality of fear, is so we would have a healthy respect for Him. The Bible says, *“Behold, the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding”* (Job 28:28). If we had a greater reverence for God, we’d have less shallow Christianity in America. The carnal contemporary Christianity of today bears little resemblance to the ‘real deal’ of the first century. In Acts 5, a Christian couple tried to “pull a fast one” and their hypocrisy cost them their lives. The Bible adds, *“And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things”* (Acts 5:11). Someone well said, “When we fear God we have nothing else to fear.” That’s why the Bible says, *“By the fear of the LORD men depart from evil”* (Prov 16:6). So don’t waste your fear on self or even others. Stop worrying about what society thinks and remember that an all-present

God is watching your life every second. Keep your focus on Him.

The Improvement of Fear

We’ve already seen that, *“Perfect love casteth out fear”* (I Jn 4:18). This mean love is stronger than fear and love can overcome fear. For example, if your house was on fire and you were safely out on the front lawn, you may want to go back in to recover your wallet or pictures, but fear would keep you from doing so. But if your child was still in the burning house your love would overcome your fear and you would go back in the burning house without hesitation. The enemy of love is fear, but love is stronger than fear. The Bible verse above says *“love casteth out fear.”* Love is able to ‘body slam’ or throw down fear. People can be fearful of things like the future, the unknown or even death. An old Spanish proverb says “he who fears death cannot enjoy life.” The Bible mentions those *“Who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage”* (Heb 2:15). An atheist approaching death once said, “One thing causes me great fear ...if death is just an eternal sleep, I’ll die happy. But if the Bible is true, I am doomed.” If we have been born again spiritually and adopted into God’s family, the Bible says, *“Ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father”* (Rom 8:15). We will have the grace to die, and also the courage to face life along the way. When we walk in faith, we’ll be able to tear through the paper thin fears of life like a Kleenex. When fear knocks at the door, faith will say, “No one is home.” Someone wisely said, “When you go forward in faith, the death of fear is certain.” God says in Genesis 26:24, *“Fear not, for I am with thee, and will bless thee.”* There are 365 “fear nots” in the Bible, which makes one for every day of the year! If fear keeps us from sin, it’s a good thing. If it holds us back from stepping out by faith, it will strangle us. Remember, *“God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind”* (II Tim 1:7). So focus on God’s greatness and faithfulness, and the fears of life will fade away. ■



AMERICA'S ONE EYED MONSTER

BY KEN HAM

Anton LaVey authored the 'Satanic Bible' and founded the Church of Satan in 1966. LaVey said; ... The birth of TV was a magical event foreshadowing its satanic significance. The first commercial broadcast was aired on April 30th, 1939, at the New York World's Fair. Since then, TV's infiltration has been so gradual, so complete that no one even noticed. People don't need to go to church any more; they get their morality plays on television. LaVey compares satellite dishes and antennas to church-top crosses and notes that television has become, in effect, the major religion of the masses, even calling the TV set the Satanic family altar.

In his book entitled *The Devil's Notebook*, published in 1992, LaVey describes in detail how he sees television as the major mainstream infiltration of the new Satanic religion. He likens the entertainers and newscasters to the clergy of the TV religion, who use their cathode-ray pulpit to spread what he calls the word.

Certainly when looking at television today, we wonder how we have grown to tolerate such violence, sexual innuendoes, explicit sexual scenes, evolutionary humanism, profanity, and so on. Even the advertisements could be called pornographic. I remember my parents telling me as a child growing up under their care, that I should always ask myself what Christ would think if He were sitting next to me. The Bible says, "*O Lord, thou hast searched me, and known me. Thou knowest my*

downsitting and mine uprising; thou understandest my thought afar off. Thou compasses my path and my lying down, and art acquainted with all my ways" (Psalm 139:1-3). I wonder how many TV sets would be switched off more often if we reminded ourselves of the verses above.

Anton LaVey sees television as the medium through which Satanism is being promoted more and more. What then is Satanism? There are certainly different forms, but Satanism for LaVey boils down to the worship of man. It is nothing but evolutionary humanism (man is an animal and man sets the rules) which is the underlying philosophy of most television programming. No wonder LaVey characterizes television the way he does. As we will see, evolution is foundational to his Satanism.

Burton Wolfe, a priest in the Church of Satan states: "Certainly the philosophy of Satanism is alive and growing on college campuses." LaVey maintains that "evil" is "live" spelled backward and should be indulged in." He goes on to say that Satanism is a "blatantly selfish, brutal philosophy. It is based on the belief that human beings are inherently selfish, violent creatures.

USA Today in March 1993 carried a story entitled "Kids' aggression linked to TV." The article stated, "The more television they watch, the more violent and disobedient elementary-school children become, suggests a large study.... Worse problems show up in those who see two hours or more of TV a

day ... MTV is linked to disobedient and argumentative behavior. Reality-based programs are tied to aggression—from bullying others to stealing and throwing temper tantrums." Many other studies give frightening correlations between television programs and behavior. No wonder LaVey said "We can use TV as a potent propaganda machine.

Now I am not telling everyone to destroy his or her television sets. However, the sad fact is that most parents have not recognized how humanistic and destructive most available programs are. They haven't recognized that their children are being indoctrinated in what is, in effect, Satanist philosophy that man has a right to do whatever he wants, because he can decide truth for himself. These lies of Satan permeate the media, the nation, and even the churches. Satanist Anton LaVey concluded by saying; "In previous centuries, the Church was the great controller, dictating morality, stifling free expression and posing as conservator of all great art and music. Today we have television dictating fashions, thoughts, attitudes, objectives as once did the Church, doing it so palatably that no one notices. Instead of 'sins' to keep people in line, we have fear of being judged unacceptable by our peers (by not wearing the right running shoes, not drinking the right kind of beer or wearing the wrong kind of deodorant)." LaVey added that "Satanism could become the major religion of the 21st century," (thanks largely in part to television). ■

a 70 million year-old

THE FISH

By David Dennis



Portions of the following article including photo are taken from the book, *In the Beginning*, by Walt Brown www.creationscience.com.

Recently all the major newspapers, magazines and networks gushed over the discovery of “*Ida*,” a 47 million year old fossil unearthed in Germany. It was heralded to be “the missing link proving evolution!” Ironically, within a few weeks the scientific world was “back peddling” as apparently *Ida* was nothing more than an extinct primate similar to a modern lemur (a tree climbing monkey-like animal), not at all resembling a human skeleton. *Ida* was once again an attempt by society to explain away our Creator God in the name of “science.”

This situation is reminiscent of something that took place prior to 1938. Many years beforehand, the pre-historic “coelacanth” (See *la kanth*) fish fossil was discovered and classified as 70 million years old! For many years evolutionists dated any rock containing a coelacanth fossil as at least 70 million years old. But in 1938 fishermen caught a living coelacanth fish deep in the Indian Ocean northwest of Madagascar. Immediately evolutionists expressed amazement that a present-day coelacanth could look exactly like an ancient fossil despite “70 million years” of evolution! (Hmmm ...like maybe it was never 70 million years old in the first place?)

Before coelacanths were caught, evolutionists incorrectly believed the coelacanth had lungs, a large brain, and four bottom fins about to evolve into legs! Evolutionists reasoned that the coelacanth must have had a large brain, crawled on it’s four fins out of the shallow sea, filled its lungs with air, and evolved into the

first four-legged land animal. Millions of students were taught that this fish was the ancestor of all amphibians, reptiles, dinosaurs, birds, and mammals, including people! Professor J. L. Smith, a well-known fish expert from South Africa, studied the first two captured coelacanths. When dissected, did the coelacanth have lungs and a large brain? ...not at all! Furthermore, in 1987, a German team led by Hans Fricke filmed six coelacanths in their natural habitat. Were they crawling on all fours? No. In fact, they spent much of their time doing headstands, apparently looking for food. Did they live in a shallow sea? No, they lived at great depths of 500 to 1200 feet below sea level.

Now let’s make some observations. First of all, notice how eager evolutionists were in making this fish out to be the ancestor of all amphibians, reptiles, mammals, humans, etc. They first assumed (or should we say imagined) the fish was a pre-historic



amphibian/reptile/mammal. Then if that were the case, they assumed it must have developed lungs to breathe air. They assumed it then must have had a large brain, and it must have had powerful fins to be able to “walk” on land. It also must have lived in shallow water, etc. The “must haves” (speculation) quickly became fact

and were printed as such in the textbooks. True science is when we use observational proof to show a fact. When we conjure up false speculation, it should be called fantasy, or at the least, wishful thinking. Even though no one witnessed any of this evolution, these “must haves” were then called ‘science.’ Notice that they actually went so far as to teach those theories in textbooks to millions of students as facts without any evidence! ... and most people believed it!

And finally, notice there are actual fossils of this fish, and there are actual living fishes. Evolution teaches that the coelacanth fish was primitive and incomplete and ‘evolved into a human’ over 70 million years. But the discovery of a living coelacanth brings huge problems to the evolutionist. If evolution is true, then why is the coelacanth unchanged?

A greater question would be; Why must such scientists insist on evolution as the only option? We don’t observe it taking place today; we can’t observe it in the fossil record; it goes against all known laws of physics (the 1st and 2nd laws of thermodynamics); and it goes against all possible mathematical probability. But they promote it anyway. Why? It is because the issue at hand here is more than science; it is a system of beliefs (also known as the religion of evolution).

These scientists have a godless bias, which doesn’t allow them to even consider a Creator as an option. Therefore, they must formulate ideas that cannot be observed or proven, and are embarrassingly disproved when “living fossils” like the coelacanth are captured. The bottom line with evolution is that man doesn’t want to be accountable

to his Creator. Man wants do his own thing without having to answer one day to a Supreme Being. If man can explain away God, he can live anyway he wants.

Ironically, there are hundreds of “living fossils” like the coelacanth. The best logical conclusion is what the Bible tells us already. God created each creature “after its own kind” (Genesis chapter 1), which is still how we observe animals reproducing to this day. They are not developing into other creatures (that actually sounds more like a magic trick that is somehow supposed to be more believable if we add millions of years into the equation). And how could a fish be fossilized 70 million years ago and be alive today? Simple ...it wasn't fossilized 70 million years ago at all. The worldwide flood of Noah (roughly 4500 years ago) contains all the possible means to quickly bury and fossilize, forming thousands of strata (layers) of rock, containing millions of fossilized creatures, including the coelacanth (fossils actually prove the flood, and disprove evolution.) If evolution were true, then there is no way there could be a modern living coelacanth.

So what is the solution? The worldwide flood rapidly buried millions of animals, fishes and other sea creatures. Obviously, some survived which is why we see animals such as the coelacanth both fossilized and living today. No 70 million years, and no evolution. The Bible easily accounts for a fossil and a living fish. Evolution does not. So how does that apply to you personally? You my friend are a special creation from the loving hand of God, originally created in His image ... not the descendant of a fish. God has a purpose for your life, and a desire that you might have a relationship with Him. ■

We would be happy to email you information that would help you in your journey to find your Creator God, and know Him in a real way. Please contact us at: FaithForLifeND@gmail.com.

HEY KIDS! RIDE THE BUS TO SUNDAY SCHOOL!

Come join other kids your age at Sunday School for Bible Lessons, Fun & Games!



For more information please call 232-5500.

what wondrous LOVE

by Paul Chappell

“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends” (John 15:13)

A story was once told of a little boy whose sister needed a blood transfusion. The doctor explained that she had the same disease the boy had recovered from two years earlier. Her only chance for recovery was a transfusion from someone who had previously conquered the disease. Since the two children had the same rare blood type, the boy was the ideal donor. “Would you give your blood to Mary?” the doctor asked. Johnny hesitated. His lower lip started to tremble. Then he forced a smile and said, “Sure, for my sister.” Soon the two children were wheeled into the hospital room – Mary, pale and thin; Johnny, robust and healthy. Neither spoke, but when their eyes met, Johnny smiled nervously. As the nurse inserted the needle into his arm, Johnny’s

smile faded. He watched the blood flow through the tube. With the ordeal almost over, his voice slightly shaky broke the silence. “Doctor, when do I die?” Only then did the doctor realize why Johnny had hesitated, why his lip had trembled when he’d agreed to donate his blood. He had thought giving his blood to his sister meant giving up his life! In that brief moment, he’d made his great decision. Johnny fortunately didn’t have to die to save his sister, but Jesus had to die to save sinners. Each of us has a condition more serious than Mary’s, and it required Jesus to give not just His blood but also His life. Even though we sinned and turned our backs on God, He sent His Son to pay the price so we could be saved and live with Him for all eternity. What motivated Jesus to give His life for us? It was a love that supersedes all human understanding. What a wondrous love! ■



How to *Hotwire* Your *Marriage*

by Pastor Doug Hammett

In the world of electronics, wires which must be connected in their correct positions. If you don't take care in wiring appliances and other electronic components, it is possible to receive a shock or even to blow up the device.

Likewise, in a marriage, properly wiring your love is very important. Wiring it right is absolutely essential. If you wire it wrong, you will self-destruct. In fact, you will find that in a marriage, no two people are wired exactly alike.

In Ephesians 5:25, the Bible says, *"Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it."* I Peter 3:7 says, *"Likewise, ye husbands, dwell with them according to knowledge, giving honour unto the wife, as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life; that your prayers be not hindered."* Please notice that it says to the husbands especially, to dwell with his wife according to knowledge. In other words, find out how she is wired.

Then in the book of John 15:12, Jesus says, *"This is my commandment, That ye love one another as I have loved you."* When we talk about love, we must determine what that means to people. Some speak of an instinct that overwhelms a person for a short period of time ...an infatuation. Many a person gets married, thinking that they are fully in love because they are all excited and infatuated. Every time they come into the presence of their honey, the goose bumps rise, the hair stands on

end and oh, they are so excited. It is good. But the sad part is, it doesn't last forever. Eventually they wake up and realize

the person they married isn't quite as thrilling as they used to be. Now they may have not told them this and I don't suggest they do. At this point their marriage has to move into a new mode. Many people never shift into that mode. Most get disappointed that the first mode is gone, and they simply exist after that. God intends for them to shift into the second mode, because the second is what real love is all about. Real love is not blinded to the weaknesses, the mistakes, or the imperfections of another person. Real love recognizes all of it, and says, "I'll look beyond all of that, and I choose to show love to this person anyway." Real love is God's kind of love, and you will never know what love is all about until you study Him and study His love in the Bible.

God's love is an action. It is not a feeling. God did not love you or me because He looked down at us and felt warm and fuzzy all over. God looked at you and me and said, "I don't need them, but they need me." He looked at us and said, "I am their only hope, and I choose to show my love to them, in spite of the fact that they are repulsive, unloving, unlovable, and the enemies of God." The Bible says we are to love those who are lovable and those who are not lovable. Not only those we choose to love, but the Bible teaches that we are to love our enemies. I find it hard to love someone who hates me. And when I find someone who hates me, and realize God tells me that I ought to love them,

I'm immediately thrown into a battle of whether I am going to do what God says, in spite of my feelings, or let sin run my life.

There are times in your marriage when it is not as easy to love that person as at other times. At times when your love is being tested you see whether you have the world's love, or whether you have God's kind of love. In light of that, consider this brief definition of love. Love is giving of yourself. Love is meeting the needs of another person. Love is giving and acting, to meet the needs of another person, even though they may not deserve it.

Now that we have shown what love is, we will show five basic ways that love can be shown and put into action. These five aspects are the five hot-wires that each person needs to emphasize in order to improve their marriage. To remember these five actions of love, we will use the following acrostic: T-TAGS, Time, Touch, Affirmation, Gifts, and Service

It is important that each of these are wired up right. Everyone's wired differently and it is extremely important to understand which one of these five actions really communicate love to your spouse. Once you have determined your spouse's schematic, you'll be able to hot-wire your relationship. If there are difficulties in your marriage already, I will guarantee you that if you will put into practice what I am teaching you, it cultivate an atmosphere in your marriage to solve all the other problems. If you have love in a marriage relationship, every other problem can then be tackled and settled. Let's look at each of these five love actions and examine how

God demonstrated them when He showed His love to us.

Time:

The first T stands for time. In Galatians 4:4, the Scripture tells us, *“But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son.”* So how has God shown His love by giving of His time? First, He saw to it that Jesus Christ would come out of Glory, down to this earth to live and spend time among the human race. Why did He do all that? Because, my friend, He understood that what you and I desire and need is time. Not only did He send Christ into this world but every time that you and I get down on our knees and talk to Almighty God, He is giving us of His time! Now I realize there is a real sense in which God has no time, that God is eternal and time doesn't affect Him in that sense. It is true He can be one hundred percent with one person when he is praying, and one hundred percent with someone else who is praying. But the fact is, when I get down to pray, I don't have to feel like God is somehow off in some other part of the world or universe and can only give me a part of an ear. God is interested in spending time with His people.

Touch:

The next key, the second T, stands for touch. Look at what the Bible says in Mark 10:13. *“And they brought young children*

to him, that he (Jesus) should touch them.” Here, they are bringing the children to touch Jesus. Remember the passage where the Bible says at the last supper, Jesus was sitting there with His disciples, and there was a disciple that leaned on Jesus' breast. That was John the Apostle. This is not something that would be normal for me. Though I doubt that Peter would have felt comfortable with leaning on Jesus, John was. Why? Because, all of us are wired differently. Then I began to realize, there are people who are so wired, so made, that touch is a very large part of their life. And there is a sense in which through the Scriptures, we see these people coming to touch Jesus Christ (if even just the hem of His garment). There is a sense in which touch is very important to everyone of us. Touch expresses love.

Affirmation:

The third letter is A, and that speaks of affirmation. In Proverbs 18:21, the Bible says, *“Death and life are in the power of the tongue.”* Again in Proverbs 12:25, it says, *“Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop: but a good word maketh it glad.”* Have you ever seen anyone who looks like they are carrying the weight of the world on their shoulders – stooped over, dejected and depressed? However, if you speak a kind word to them, they brighten up. It makes a major difference in their life. Have you ever seen that happen? Do you

know that God has spoken to us words of affirmation and encouragement? God has spoken to us, and we can find out what He has to say in the Word of God. God has given us words for every situation in life we might ever face. What a blessing! Whenever we need a word of encouragement, all we have to do is to look in God's Word and see what He has to say about the situation that we are facing.

Gift:

There is a fourth way in which God demonstrates His love. That is in the giving of a gift. So when did God ever give a gift? What is His unspeakable gift? It is the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ, in John 3:16, *“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.”* God sent the greatest gift. He didn't send a small gift. He sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to die for you, my friend. The greatest of all gifts that could have been given was the gift that God has given to us.

Service:

The S stands for Service. It was Jesus who said in Luke 22:26, *“He that is greatest among you, let him be as ... he that doth serve.”* Do you know what Jesus was talking about here? He was talking about the act

continued on next page

Senior Pastor
Tony Scheving

•

Assoc. Pastor
David Dennis

•

Asst. Pastor
Lawrence Vandal

•

Campus Minister
Neal Irion

•

Outreach Ministry
Bernie Gonzales
Dan Schatz

We're Building Lives!

FARGO
BAPTIST CHURCH

3303 23rd Ave S
Fargo, ND • 58103

Sunday Bible Class 9:30am
Sunday Worship 10:30am
Sunday Evening 6:00pm
Wednesday Service 7:00pm

www.fargobaptist.org • 701.232.5500

Hotwire your Marriage

continued from previous page

of washing feet. He was talking about the need for us to learn to be servants of one another. No one ever showed the heart of a servant better than the Lord Jesus Christ. When Christ came into this world He did not come like the King of kings. Instead He was born in a manger to a poor family. He endured the ridicule of the world, even among His own family. He served those that He called to follow Him. You would have thought they would have served Him. But when He called them, he said, "I'm going to take care of you," and He did. Why? Because He was trying to demonstrate His love for those disciples.

Application to Marriage

Again, love is an action. Love is a demonstration of a desire to meet another person's need, even though they may not deserve it. Love says, "I'm going to meet their needs, whether they ever meet mine or not." Love says, "I'm going to find a way to show that I love them, and I'm going to find out what their hot wire really is, so I can please them more than I have in the past."

So, how do you hot-wire a marriage? And in essence, how do you hot-wire any other

relationship? How do you open the doors of communication, so that the other person senses they are loved and cared about?

Let's start with the first T, which stands for Time. Now, there are different ways in which you can spend time with another person, but it is most important that the time we give to others be quality time. For the husband, quality time probably does not include having your wife sit down and watch a basketball game, unless of course, she enjoys basketball, too.

What exactly is quality time? Well, there are three things by which you can judge the time that you give to someone else to determine if it is quality time. Number one, it means that one of you wants to do it. Both of you don't have to want to do it, but one wants to do it. If I want to give time as gift, to show my love for my wife, I'm not going to go to her and say, "Okay, honey, here's what I want to do. Now you come and do it with me, and we'll have quality time." Quality time is time spent doing something that she wants to do. On a given Friday, my wife was wanting to go to a particular clothing store, and I didn't want to go there. It wasn't my desire. I am not into women's dresses. But my wife said, "You know, I would like to go to that store and look around." Well, you know what? I like to be with her, so I went. Now,

she understands that I didn't go to the store because I wanted to look at dresses. She understands that I went to that store because I wanted to be with her. Therefore, she knows that I'm choosing to spend time with her, in spite of the fact that I don't necessarily enjoy where we are at. There are other times that it works the other way. There are places that I enjoy going, such as computer stores, that my wife does not enjoy. However, sometimes she will go to the computer store with me just so that she can be with me.

The third thing that quality time involves is conversation – quality conversation. Again, there are some things that aid in conducting quality conversation. Number one, when you are having a conversation with someone, maintain eye contact. You can't really listen and be looking elsewhere. You cannot listen properly while you are reading the newspaper or watching the television! Number two, don't listen and do something else. Number three, listen for feelings. Don't just listen to the words. Do you know what men like to do? They are very quick to listen and figure out the answers to their wife's problems. "Oh, that's simple. I know just what to do." Unfortunately they missed the point. Their wife wants them to understand what she is feeling. That is a major part of what a relationship is all about – understanding the feelings of another person. This doesn't mean that you agree with their feelings and it doesn't mean that their feelings are right. But it means that you understand what their feelings are. Number four, you need to observe body language. If your spouse is sitting there, arms folded and jaw set tight, you can pretty well figure out that what they are saying to you has an undertone to it. There is more than meets the eye. Or if they are sitting down, looking dejected, then you can know exactly what is being said. It takes some time to learn your wife or husband, but it can be done. Observe their body language. And then, number five, refuse to interrupt them when they are talking. Let the other person get out everything that they have to say. Just because you think that you have the answer does not mean that you should interrupt them and tell them what you think. It is important to hear the other person out. Now again, this may not be the hot wire

DISCOVER THE Bible

A Free 7 Lesson Home Bible Study Course

Contact us today for your free seven-part correspondence course which can be taken in the privacy of your home.

To request the series, write us at:

CHBC · P.O. Box 107 · Fargo, ND · 58107

Or take the free course online at: www.DiscoverTheBible.org.

in your spouse's life. It may or may not be time. But time is part of any proper showing of love, and it needs to be there.

The second T stands for touch. All societies have forms of touching. Here in America we shake hands when we greet one another. In fact, if someone walked up to me and refused to shake hands with me, I would immediately sense that something was not right. There is a right way and a wrong way to touch. And there are people who, in a husband/wife relationship, feel very uncomfortable in a public setting with being touched. You may have grown up in a family which did not hug and kiss a lot. But you had better learn how, if your spouse is used to that. You had better learn how to display your love to them. Of course, we are not talking about improper kinds of touching in public. We are just talking about proper touching. Remember that Jesus Christ made Himself available to be touched.

The third letter is A and it stands for affirmation. Affirmation refers to the words that we use when speaking to others. Some people need words. Some people want words. The words are what makes them feel warm and bubbly all over. The words are what communicate to them. Some people gauge your love for them by the way that you speak to them. Sometimes we can say things that are so very cutting and dig in. This ought not to be so, especially in a marriage relationship. Instead, our words ought to be encouraging and kind. We ought to weigh our words. Are they soothing words? It may be that your spouse just loves encouraging words. Those are the things that just really fire them up. Words make them feel good. If that is the case, then that is where you need to put your attention. That is the key to hot-wiring your marriage.

The fourth letter is G, and that stands for gift. Now gifts don't necessarily have to be expensive things. A gift at times may be something small and inexpensive. Maybe it is something you make with your own hands. If you are living on five hundred dollars a week, you don't have to go out and spend five thousand dollars to impress your wife. Your wife knows what budget you live on. It might be that you could go out and pick some flowers for your

wife. It might be a time to just hand your spouse twenty five dollars and say, "Go get something." Or it could just be a gift of giving yourself to your spouse for an hour to do chores or run errands for them.

The fifth letter, S, stands for service. Service is doing little things around the house. Some ladies are wired so their hot wire is service. Gifts of service are what speak to their heart the most. And for her husband to say, "I'll wash the dishes," really excites them. It is the best way you could ever show that you love them. The best way to show your love for this person is to do little things for them. Get up and fix breakfast for the family, instead of your wife having to do that. Wash the dishes without being asked. Carry the trash out without being asked. Warm the car up in the morning, before she goes somewhere, so she won't have to get out and scrape the windows. Make sure your husband's clothes are ironed and ready for the next day, before he asks you. It is important to look for little ways in which to serve your wife or husband.

Now, we have seen five ways in which love is expressed. A marriage ought to express love in all five areas. If you love your spouse properly, you will be showing love to them by time, by touch, by affirmation, by gifts, and by service. You should do all five of those in your married life. But there will be one or two of these that will be your spouse's favorite. They will be the ones that will make their eyes light up. Now, finding your spouse's hot wire may take a little effort on your part and may require you to make some sacrifices, but isn't that what love is all about?

Lastly, it would be good for both of you to talk about it. What you perceive as your spouse's hot wire might not be their hot wire. You might get it messed up. But by asking them, you can be sure to find out what that hot wire is. And then decide to love them. Decide to act, not react. Love is an action, not a reaction. Love says, "This is what I'm going to do, regardless of what they do." That is how God treated us. He reached out to us, before we were ever returning that love to Him.

Remember what the Scriptures said in Ephesians 5:25? "*Husbands, love your*

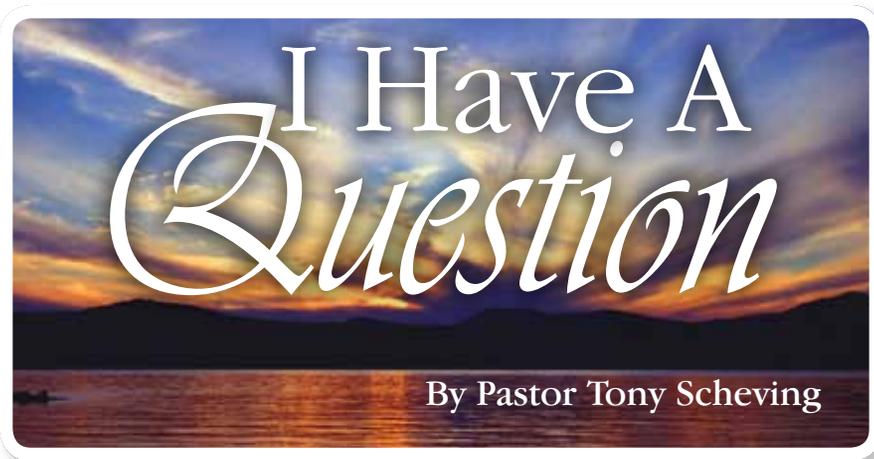
wives, even as Christ loved the church..." Remember what He said in John 15:12, "*This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you.*" I can guarantee you that in a reasonable amount of time you will see a difference in your marriage. When you find your spouse's hot-wire and begin emphasizing it, many of the problems that are around will begin to disappear, because they are not really the problems. They are just the symptoms of your spouse not feeling like you love them as you ought. What problems do remain will be solved much more easily and worked out between the two of you, in an atmosphere of love, care, and concern of one another. But without the love, you won't solve your problems. So make a commitment to make a difference in your marriage today by finding out how to love your spouse. Make your marriage something special! ■

Heartwarming Christian Radio

Heaven
88.7 FM

Listen on the web at
www.kfbn.org





What is a Soul?

The Roman Emperor Hadrian lived around 200 AD. He is still regarded as one of the greatest Caesars of all time. He was an incredibly busy and industrious builder. Perhaps no man in history built so many architectural structures and left such a mark upon the world as Hadrian. He was still building a 750-acre tract at Tivoli when he learned that he was dying. He was quoted as having said, "O fleeing little soul, where do you go now?"

Many people worry more about their body than their soul. The body may live for several decades, but the soul lives on forever in either heaven or hell. The word soul appears 473 times in the Bible! You receive your soul at the moment of your conception (along with the sin nature Ps 51:5). Your soul is invisible and lives inside of your body.

Your soul inside your body is the real you (your personality, thinking, affections, desires and feelings). Genesis 2:7 says, *The LORD God formed man ...and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.* The Bible adds in I Cor 15:45, *The first man Adam was made a living soul.* You have a body, but you are a soul. The soul is the real you. It is your soul that loves. In Matthew 22:37, *Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul.* **It is the soul that feels sadness.** Matthew 26:38 says, *Then saith (Jesus) unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful. Your soul is the center of your feelings & emotions.*

Your soul leaves your body at death. Genesis 35:18 says, *And it came to pass,*

as her (Rachel's) soul was in departing, for she died ... The Bible says in Acts 7:59, And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit (soul). When the soul leaves the body, the body is lifeless and no longer feels or thinks. James 2:26 says, *The body without the spirit (soul) is dead.* There's a soul inside of you just waiting to get out! It is invisible and lives

inside your body. Our bodies are just a 'motel' the soul is temporarily living within. One day at death our soul will 'check out' permanently. A Swedish doctor in a book he authored says he discovered the human soul weighs around 21 to 25 grams. He placed terminally ill patients on sensitive weight scales and saw the needle drop as soon as the patient died. Evidently the soul even weighs something. The same findings were documented by an American doctor.

Your soul cannot die. In Matthew 10:28 Jesus said, *Fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul. Your soul is more valuable than anything the world can offer.* In Matthew 16:26 Jesus said, *What is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul? Many people neglect their soul for the temporal things of the world.* In Luke 12:20, *God said unto him (unsaved man), Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? (We're going to leave all our possessions behind one day when we die).*

Your soul will live on forever in either heaven or hell. Four hundred years before the birth of Christ, Socrates, the renowned Greek Philosopher was condemned to death. He drank the poison hemlock and lay down to die when a friend asked him, "Shall we live again?" The dying philosopher could only reply, "I hope so, but no man can know." According to God's Word, we can know for sure!

Your soul needs to be 'converted' sometime during your life. Psalms 19:7 says, *The law of the LORD (Bible) is perfect, converting the soul.* Apparently our soul needs a time when it is saved or converted by the gospel taught in God's Word. (Please contact us for more information on this at FaithForLifeND@gmail.com.)

According to the Bible, you will go to hell forever if your soul is not converted. In Luke 16:22-23 Jesus said, *The rich man also died, and (his body) was buried; And in hell he (his soul) lift up his eyes, being in torments.* This man's soul was never converted and went to hell where it remains suffering to this day.

Your soul immediately goes to heaven at death if converted. In II Corinthians 5:6, 8, Paul the apostle said, *While we (the soul) are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord. We are ...willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord (in heaven).* In Luke 16:22 Jesus said, *And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and (his soul) was carried by the angels into (paradise or heaven).* In Mark 9, Jesus speaks with Moses & Elijah who reappear on earth hundreds of years after they had lived and died (their soul is still alive and in heaven). In I Samuel 28, the prophet Samuel is alive and speaking from paradise (heaven) years after his body had died.

You can know for sure your soul is going to heaven... 1 John 5:13, *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life.*

If your soul is saved (converted), it goes to heaven immediately upon death. **Please note the following examples of Christians who died and went to heaven immediately.* In Revelation 6:9-10, (John the apostle gets a vision of heaven and says) *I saw the souls of them that were slain (martyred) for the Word of God (they were alive & well and even speaking up in heaven).* Jesus told the thief on the cross who got saved just before his death, *Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise (Luke 23:43).*

Hebrews 12:1 says, *We also are compassed about (surrounded) with so great a cloud of witnesses (the many deceased Christians named in the previous chapter)...let us (survivors on earth) run with patience the*

race (life) that is set before us (there is a 'great grandstand' in the sky and our saved deceased loved ones are in it watching us!) In John 5:24, (Jesus said) ...*He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation* (purgatory or hell); *but is passed from death unto life* (i.e.- at death, the soul of a Christian goes straight to heaven). In Philippians 1:23, (Paul the Apostle said) *For I am...having a desire to depart* (from this world), *and to be with Christ; which is far better.* Also, note Acts 7:59, *And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit'* (soul). Like all born again Christians, Stephen went straight to heaven!

In Mark 12:27 Jesus was confronted by clergymen who didn't believe in an afterlife (*imagine that!*) Speaking of His

heavenly Father Jesus said, *He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living: ye therefore do greatly err.* (Jesus was referring to Abraham, Isaac & Jacob who had died hundreds of years earlier, still being alive in heaven). God makes it clear in the Bible. If someone has been saved the Bible way, they go straight to heaven as soon as their heart stops. They don't need to be "purged" from their sins before qualifying for heaven.

The Bible says, "*The blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin*" (when we're born again, I Jn 1:7). According to the Bible, there is no such thing as purgatory. It was invented by Pope Gregory V in 593AD (over 500 years after Christ). Since that time untold amounts of money have been given to get people out of a place that doesn't exist. The Bible says in Hebrews 9:27, *It is appointed unto men once to die, but*

after this the judgment (heaven or hell). Also note from this verse that there is no such thing as reincarnation. Where we will spend eternity is determined before we die based on whether our soul has been converted or not... Revelation 21:24 tells us that, *the nations of them which are saved shall walk in the light of* (heaven).

Once again... **You can know for sure your soul is going to heaven...** 1 John 5:13 *These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life.* ■

thoughts ponder

If we forget what it was like to be on the bottom, we are no longer fit to be on top.

•
Even Jesus knew better than to debate His critics.

•
Spend more time counting your blessings than airing out your complaints.

•
Faith is when we are certain of what we were hoping for.

•
The truth will set you free, but normally it will make you miserable first.

•
God never sends anyone away empty except those who are already full of themselves.

•
The idol of self is a sorry substitute for God.

•
The will of God...nothing less, nothing more, nothing else.

Pastor's Perspective

ARE YOU STILL GROWING?

"Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ"

-II Peter 3:18

Great Christians all have one thing in common. They are committed to spiritual growth! A Christian is either going forward or backward in their spiritual life. There is no neutral. In the Bible Jesus addresses some cold Christians when He says, *"I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love"* (Rev 2:4). If you continue to live the way you're currently living, will you hear the Lord say in the next life *"well done thou good and faithful servant?"* (Matt 25:21). For this to happen you will have to resist the pull to be mediocre. The difference between the outstanding, the average, and the stagnant is growth! Thomas Edison was still challenging himself to invent new things up until his death at age 84. Someone said, "If the goal is not to grow, you might as well die." Others should even be able to detect our growth (I Tim 4:15).

As we consider spiritual growth, let's look at three things.

The Exhortation of Growth

Back in 1872 Joshua Coppersmith, was arrested in New York for attempting to extort funds from people to develop a device which would transmit the human voice over metallic wires. A related article in a Boston newspaper stated, "Well-informed people know that it is impossible to transmit the human voice over wires, as with dots and dashes of the Morse code, and if it were possible, the thing would be of no practical value. Authorities who apprehended this criminal are to be congratulated, and it is hoped that his punishment will be prompt and fitting." Of course in today's wireless world we would smile at the stunted thinking of the 1800s. In the early 1870s, the US Congress considered halting further funds to the US Patent office because "there couldn't possibly be any more things to invent!" The fact is, our Creator has wired His creation to be continually making progress. In 60 short years we went from the Wright Bros. at Kitty Hawk to Neal Armstrong on the moon! Many of us who grew up with stacks of 33 RPM records and 8-track cartridges now enjoy tiny I-pods containing

continued on next page

thousands of songs. It's called 'progress' and its all part of God's plan. In the same way, God wants His children to be growing. First of all we should be growing in our knowledge of God. The Bible says, *"Walk worthy of the Lord ... increasing in the knowledge of God"* (Col 1:10). Secondly we should be growing in love. The Bible says, *"But as touching brotherly love ... we beseech you, brethren, that ye increase more and more"* (I Thess 4:9-10). Are you continually becoming more kind, patient, merciful, gracious and thoughtful?

Thirdly we should be growing in our knowledge of Bible truth. The Bible says, *"That we be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine ... But speaking the truth in love, may grow up"* (Eph 4:14-15). Peter adds, *"Desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby"* (I Peter 2:2). Fourthly we should be growing in faith! The Bible says, *"We are bound to thank God always for you, brethren, because that your faith groweth exceedingly"* (II Thess 1:30). Finally, we should be growing in being less intrigued with the world. A Christian shouldn't waste his time trying to be "street wise." We don't need to hover over all the latest crud going on in world. Do you really care what's in vogue, or what is chic? God says, *"I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil"* (Rom 16:19). The apostle Paul didn't "give a hoot" about what was going on in the sinful bath houses of Rome.

The Examples of Growth

Thomas Monaghan was the founder, president, and chief executive officer of Domino's Pizza. From 1970 to 1985, Domino's grew from a small debt-ridden restaurant to the second largest pizza chain in America. When asked to give an account for the phenomenal growth of the company, Monaghan explained, "we programmed everything for growth. The key to our growth is not the tasty pizza crust, special cheese, or fast delivery. Every day we develop people—the key to growth is developing people." The Bible

reads like "who's who" with people who grew into spiritual greatness like Samuel and John the Baptist. Peter was once an immature believer who failed to walk on water, argued about being the greatest apostle, fell asleep when Jesus needed him to pray, claimed he would never deny the Lord, cut off the servants ear, and quit the ministry to go back to fishing. But after the death and resurrection of Jesus, Peter committed himself to growth and went on to preach on Pentecost and finished strong. No wonder he was able to write the verse at the top of the page, *"Grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ"* (II Peter 3:18). The writer of the gospel of Mark was once a "Mama's boy" who chickened out on the mission field and went back home. Years later Paul referred to Mark as a useful Christian (II Tim 4:11).

Paul himself grew from obscurity to the greatest apostle of all because he was committed to growth, (Phil 3:13). Failing to grow is a recipe for disaster. Solomon stopped growing and made a royal mess of his life. Demas failed to grow and ended up out of the ministry (II Tim 4:10). The difference between the "haves" and the "have nots" is growth! A high school teacher was passed up year after year for promotion to principle in a large school system. Finally he went to the Superintendent and complained stating that he had 25 years of experience. The Superintendent calmly said, "No Jim, you have one year of experience 25 times." Many people are examples of stagnancy with the same old rotten attitudes and wrong actions.

The Exercise of Growth

The Bible says, *"The righteous shall flourish like the palm tree: he shall grow like a cedar in Lebanon"* (Ps 92:12). A Christian should be growing in his faithfulness, his finances, his love, his humility, his selflessness, his service to others, his trust in God, and his contempt for the world. He should be praying more and getting offended less. He should be becoming more thankful and more patient. He should also be growing in wisdom, holiness, and ambition. He should be better able to deal

with adversity today than last year. Simply put, there comes a time to "grow up!" If a Christian is not truly growing, it's a tip off that they may not have been ever truly born again. Are you growing? Does you life revolve around the Lord and serving others, or are you still absorbed with yourself? Are you heavenly minded or enamored with the trashiness of the world? The world really has nothing to offer and nothing for a Christian to go back to. Have you figured that out yet? If you're not growing, you are going backwards. Years ago the Virginia Medical Monthly told the story of a woman who actually grew backwards. She was a wife and mother of three daughters.

Life was normal until her husband died when the children were in high school. The mother stepped up her devotion to her daughters. She changed her clothes to those of a teenage girl and joined in her daughter's activities and fun. In a few years the children noticed that as they grew older their mother was growing younger. Psychiatrists call it "personality regression." Usually such people stop going backward at a certain age, but not this woman. She slipped backward at the rate of one year for every three months of time. Finally, by age 61, she acted and talked like a 6-year-old. She was sent to a sanitarium, where she insisted on wearing little girl dresses, playing with toys, and babbling like a child. Then she became like a three-year-old spilling her food, crawling on the floor, and crying "Mama." She slipped backwards farther to the age of one, drinking milk curled up like a tiny baby. Finally, she went back over the line and died. Again, spiritually speaking, if you're not growing you are going backwards. If you have been saved by God's grace, commit yourself to spiritual growth!

