EXTENDING THE KINGDOM OF GOD...ONE PERSON AT A TIME®

Spring 2013 (



# IFROMTHE LOCALITY

Discovering the Healthiest and Happiest Way to Experience Life

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## from the editor

## Why do you do what you do?

Finding the way that leads to life, for us and others

esus was traveling through many cities and villages, meeting people, teaching them about the kingdom of God, and healing their diseases. There were so many people! And so many needs. When Jesus looked at them, He saw that they were very weary and overwhelmed. To Him, it seemed that they were scattered, like sheep without a shepherd.

As His disciple Matthew records the scene, we read that Jesus was *moved* with compassion. It was no mere emotion; this godly compassion for the people motivated Jesus to act and speak. He was *moved*. (See Matthew 9.)

What moves you? What motivates you, animates you, causes you to get up in the morning and stay up late at night?

Here's another question: have you ever faced burn-out? Have you ever come to a place where it seemed nothing could ever move you again? I know I have at times, and it's not a good feeling. It seems to me that a lot of folks, particularly in America, are battling that today.

God is dealing with our motives, not to condemn us, but to breathe His Spirit upon us and lead us in the way that leads to life, rather than death; life for us and for those around us. He is still actively seeking to work in and through us to do a "new thing". I love the old song, "God's Not Finished With Me Yet!"

Just when we think we've got life "all figured out", we discover a curve in the road and something new up around the bend. In those moments, we are reminded once more that our dependance is not upon ourselves or others, but upon God's presence, wisdom, and faithfulness. We are forced to re-examine our motives and our methods...and to seek God with new fervor and focus. These times not only re-shape us, but they position us to be re-filled with God's Spirit and power ... the power that will move us onward into His glorious purpose.

Sometimes, we feel stuck or alone or powerless. This usually hits us right at the time when we need to be most engaged. Our spiritual enemy knows that, and he is crafty and malicious in trying to stop us in our tracks. The only antidote to burn-out and breakdown is the washing and refreshing that comes from the presence of God. As Paul told the folks in Athens, "in Him we live and move and have our being."

This April 17-19, 2013, in Gatlinburg, Tennessee, I want to invite you to gather with us and other friends to discover "Why Do You Do What You Do?" Our speakers this year include Bishop Joseph Garlington and Charles Simpson, and we will once again enjoy the dynamic worship leading of Don Poythress, Jim La Verde, and the outstanding team from Abundant Life Church in Mt. Juliet, Tennessee. We sense this will be a time of refreshing and re-purposing ... a time of renewal and restoration.

For more information on this conference and to register now, please visit **www.csmpublishing.org** or call us at (251) 633-7900. We look forward to seeing you there and seeking God together with you. 121



Stephen Simpson's new audio message, "FIRST LOVE", is now available at csmpublishing.org.



BY CHARLES SIMPSON

How to discover the healthiest and happiest way to experience life!

cottish runner Eric Liddell won the gold medal in the 1924 Paris Olympics in the 400 meter race. Next to being a missionary, running was his passion. In the Academy-Award winning film Chariots of Fire (1981), he is famously quoted as saying, "I believe that God made me for a purpose, but He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure." The great tragedy of life for so many people is that they never discover what they were born to do or get to know the joy of doing what is in their hearts. Are you living from your heart?.

#### **THE HEART**

I cannot define the heart in a spiritual sense; I can only describe it. The relationship between the physical heart and the heart as the Bible addresses it remains a mystery to me, though I do believe that there is a vital relationship between the two. When our lives are not lived from our heart spiritually, it can have a bad effect physically.

Generally speaking, the Bible addresses the heart as the source and center of our motivation in our true self. The Scriptures tell us that we cannot truly know our own hearts apart from God (see Jeremiah 17:9-10). Only God, our Creator, can cause us to know our true motives: what we were created to be and do. Understanding ourselves can be a difficult but rewarding journey as we fellowship with God and trusted friends, but it's a journey well-worth taking. We are not merely a "type of person", we are each unique.

#### **UNIQUE**

In his book, *The Power* of *Uniqueness*, Arthur F. Miller, Jr. writes that we are all born with a specific

genetic makeup; that our motivations, abilities, and patterns are predetermined from birth, and began to manifest at the earliest stages of life. Recently psychology has focused mainly upon environmental causes of behavior, but Miller focused upon created causes. He looks at thousands of cases where the individual uniqueness played the dominant role. His approach is very biblical and cites the numerous texts that confirm our created individuality. We were designed to serve God in specific ways; our motives, abilities, and patterns are unique (see Psalm 139).

The problem is that society treats us as "types" and seeks to conform and stereotype us. It categorizes us by race, class, or some other method. When we accept this, we begin to live outside of our hearts and callings with destructive consequences. We cannot force ourselves or others to be who we, or they, are not. The real answer to finding peace, joy, and fruitfulness lies in being in harmony with how God made us. Then we "feel God's pleasure when we run." The most difficult lesson for me is to accept people for who they are and not who I want them to be.

## ♥ FROM THE HEART

I am impressed at how often the Bible speaks about the heart. We are to love God with all our heart, and obey from the heart, hide His Word in our heart, to trust with all our heart, to believe with our heart, to forgive from our hearts, and to give from our heart. Scripture says that our words reveal our hearts. There are hundreds of other references to the heart.

Hypocrisy is when life and heart are in conflict, when we act and speak in ways that betray the truth. The Bible warns against that behavior, not only because it displeases God who desires "truth in the inward parts", but because it is destructive to us. God deals with us from His heart to our heart. He calls us to live from the heart-how He created us. If our hearts condemn us. He can handle our confession and give us a clean heart (see Psalm 51:10: 1 John 3:18-21). But He will not entertain pretense. Faith, words, and deeds must be in harmony.

We all live under pressure: the pressure to make a living, perform in certain ways, to avoid certain subjects, to produce certain outcomes, and behave or indulge in certain social activity. In the process, we can lose touch with God

and our own heart. We can respond by retreating, or engage but project a false image. Neither is healthy, pleasing to God, or satisfactory in the long term. Culture, vocation, education, and yes, even religion can place upon us the demand to fit in, go along to get along, and paste a smile on our face, while losing touch with our created purpose. Sooner or later, health or relational issues will blow away the façade.

## ♥ THE KINGDOM OF GOD

In 1964 the Lord drew me to become filled with the Holy Spirit. At that same time, He gave me Romans 14:17, "The kingdom of God is not eating and drinking but righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit." Since that time I have increasingly seen the unfolding of those words. Righteousness is God's gift to us through faith in Christ. While He accounts to us through Christ, He works to conform us to Christ. Peace is harmony with God and others and brings us joy. It is all in the Holy Spirit.

The kingdom of God is His government in our lives. He Who made us directs us to express what He made us to be. His created will must be the dominant factor for His glory and our good. The Kingdom is life from His heart expressed through our heart and life—every area, family, education, vocational, and spiritual life.

Proverbs 12:22 says, "Those who deal truthfully are His delight." That begins with dealing truthfully with God and our own heart. "God is not a man, that He should lie" (see Numbers 23:19). He



doesn't lie nor does He favor us when we do. The publican was honest with God though he had been dishonest and Jesus pronounced him, "justified" (see Luke 18:9-14). When we please God, He takes care of the opposition (see Proverbs 16:7).

Enoch is a wonderful example of walking in harmony with God and being delivered from a corrupt generation. He walked with God right into

glory. He pleased God (see Hebrews 11:5).

## GIVING FROM THE HEART

Most of us are bombarded with pressure to give to some cause. I try to avoid giving merely because some project seems worthy. My resources belong to God, and therefore I need to give as He directs, though I have sometimes failed in that regard. Pressure of one kind or another has affected me

I was recently asked to bring a stewardship message to a large congregation and decided that I should, realizing that if I am to speak on giving, I must give. As I prepared the message, I once again looked at the Scriptures and saw that giving must be done from the heart. In Exodus 25:1-2, the Lord instructed Moses to tell Israel to bring offerings to construct the tabernacle. Those offerings were to be given from their hearts. Exodus 36:2-7 says that they gave so much that they had to be restrained. As former slaves they were grateful to be able to give, and did so from their hearts.

Bezalel and Aholiab were the primary supervisors of construction, and Exodus 36:2 says that God had put wisdom in their hearts. They were created to create; they were genetically designed for the task. No doubt their work brought great pleasure to God, to themselves, and others. Whether it was the builders or the givers, the issue was "from the heart".

The issue in the early Church was the same as in Israel. In Acts 4:33-34, the early Christians were of one heart and soul to give to the building of the body of Christ, and they gave houses and lands for the propagation of the Gospel. There was a connection between their hearts, their giving, the power of God, and His favor upon them.

The apostle Paul wrote to Corinth, "So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver" (see 2nd Corinthians 9:7). The issue was not to be pressure or promises, but love. God loves us and gives to us. Giving is the overflow of His heart toward us.

In 2 Corinthians 8:1-15, Paul records that the Macedonian churches gave even though they were in great trial, affliction, and deep poverty. They gave liberally and abundantly. The key is found in verse five: "they first gave themselves to the Lord." They gave their hearts before they gave their resources.

God doesn't need anything; He owns all creation. But God is a giver and wants us to know the joy of a giving heart like His own. Deuteronomy 15:10 tells us that God doesn't want our hearts to be grieved as we give, but to do it with joy—to enjoy it! The joy of giving is contagious.

#### ♥ GETTING HONEST

True renewal of our hearts comes as we get honest with God, ourselves, and others. That is often difficult because it can involve risk, confrontation. and change. But failure to get honest involves displeasing God, frustration, and other destructive behaviors. We must periodically review life and ask, what about my life is not from the heart? What am I doing that is not experiencing God's pleasure? If we can reconcile our hearts to God and His purpose, life will flow like waters from the wells of salvation (see Isaiah 12:3-4).

Abraham was a well digger, but after his death, the Philistines filled the

wells with dirt. Isaac had to dig out the dirt to rediscover the water. Sometimes dirt gets in our well, whether we allowed it or others threw it in. As in Isaac's case, there is usually contention. But if we keep moving and digging, we will find our place and living waters (see Genesis 26:17-22). The issue is finding what is in God's heart, getting that in our heart, and then living from the heart.

The good news is that we do not have to settle for a life. of drudgery, frustration, and meaninglessness. We can have righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit. We may have to face some tough questions and issues, but we can escape the bondage of cultural expectations and conformity and live from the heart if we get real with our Creator who knows and loves us. If we do, renewal will come along with fruitfulness and bring glory to God. The kingdom of God is when He rules our hearts.

May your life be lived from the heart and bring to you the joy of the Lord which will be your strength. You will "feel God's pleasure when you run."

CHARLES SIMPSON is Editor-in-Chief of One-to-One Magazine. He ministers extensively throughout the United States and among the nations.



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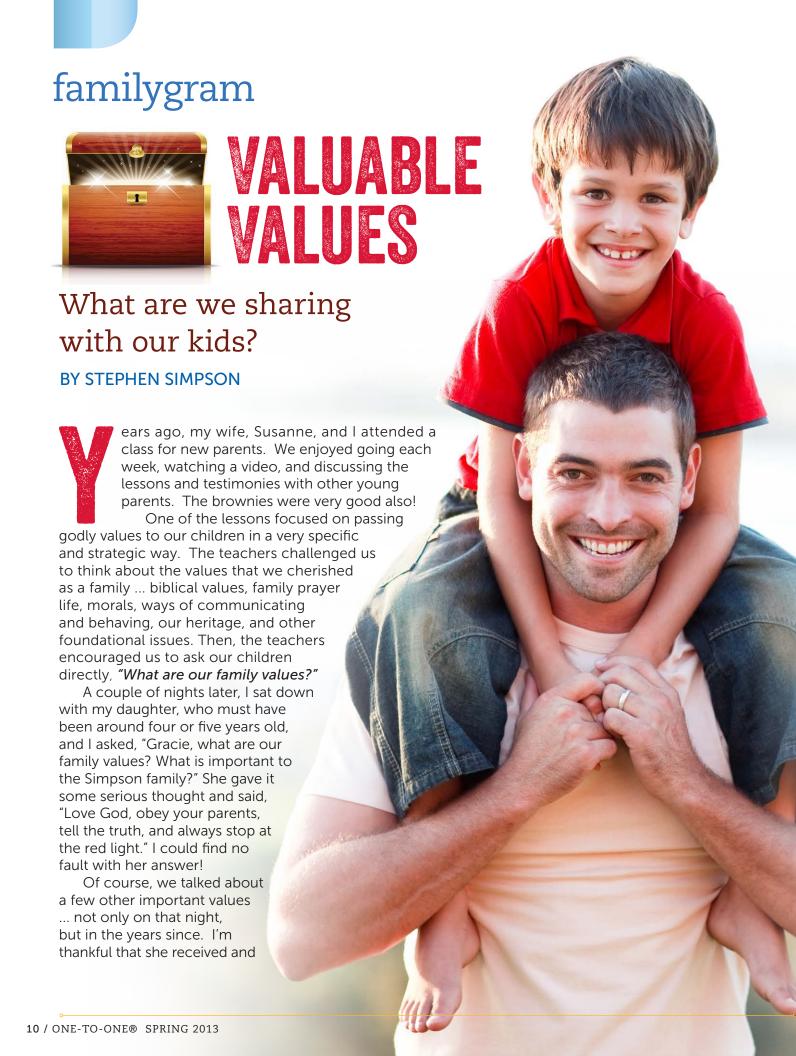
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embraced our family values and is now seeking to share these values with others by service and example.

## PROCLAMATION THROUGH DEMONSTRATION

Values are best and most effectively shared through demonstration. In fact, that is ultimately how our real values are passed on. If I say I value patience, but demonstrate impatience and frustration, the people around me are not going to be receiving the blessings of patience. They may have to learn how to be patient in order to cope with me! But it will be a value learned in spite of me, not because I modeled it or shared it.

Just as those teachers taught us years ago, I believe it is vital to be very intentional about passing our values on to our children. The first step is in meditating on the values that we presently hold and seeing how they line up with biblical values. Another important exercise is examining how our stated values line up with our actual behaviors.

If I say that one of our family values is fiscal responsibility but regularly overspend on non-essentials, then two truths must be recognized:

> I don't really value responsibility
>  My children are seeing the disconnect

> > If I say I value generosity but never give of my time or my finances, then I'm

teaching a lesson to my children to be self-centered misers.

If I say that church is a priority to me, but I seldom attend, seldom support it financially, seldom volunteer, and I constantly trash talk about the pastor and members, then is it possible that church is really NOT a priority to me? Is it possible that our kids are smart enough to figure that out? Is it likely that church will be a priority for them as they grow older? Does that matter?

More questions: have your children heard you tell them you love them? Do they hear and see you expressing love and honor for your spouse? Do they hear you praying or singing to the Lord? Are thanksgiving, reverence, and joy evident in your own life?

When you make the decision to have children, you have made a decision to be an example for them—for better or for worse — whether or not you realize it. As author Robert Fulghum said, "Don't worry that children never listen to you; worry that they are always watching you." You are not only modeling ... you are sowing.

Years ago, I was in a video store. Remember those? I ran into a family from our church and we exchanged greetings. The dad then said to his sons, "OK, what movie do you boys want to watch tonight?" The youngest boy said, "Well, what movie does the preacher have?" Thank God, I had a very wholesome video in my hand! I was reminded again that night of the precious responsibility that we have as models for our kids and families.

If you tell your kids, "Don't cuss, don't talk nasty, don't lose

your temper" but you fill your home with violent or coarse humor, films, and music ... well, what do you think will happen?

#### **PRIORITIZING VALUES**

Another memorable quote is from motivator Zig Ziglar, who famously said, "If you aim at nothing, you will hit it every time!" When is the last time you intentionally sat down and thought about your values personally or the priorities of your family ... what is most precious to you?

If your house caught fire, heaven forbid, you probably know of a few things you would want to try to save above all else, aside from your own lives, of course. Many people will say, "family pictures" or other irreplaceable mementos.

But of even greater priority ought to be knowing the answer to this question: what are the truths, above all other truths, that I want my kids to know down deep in their hearts? What are the values I want to pass on to them?

It goes far beyond making sure they like your favorite football team or they know Grandma's secret gravy recipe. Those things are great, but they won't save anybody's soul. What are the five or seven essentials of life that your children must know?

#### PASS IT ON

Once we've identified the values, we need to think about how to pass them along effectively. The Lord said this to His people:

"Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall

continued on page 15

## marketplace exchange



## HELLO my name is

## Areyon an Tutluencer?

Who are we influencing and who is influencing us? These were ideas often explored by the late Jim Rohn, who was known as "America's foremost business philosopher." His message of discipline and individual responsibility inspired millions of people to advance in their personal development and callings.



> Kyle Wilson

Jim's audience often heard stories about and quotes from Jim's own mentor, Earl Shoaff. Lesser known perhaps, but also paramount to Jim's message being heard worldwide was Kyle Wilson, who founded Jim Rohn International (JRI) in 1993. Kyle is a marketing visionary who

describes himself as one who "connects experts and talented people with the marketplace." Much of Jim's



An Interview with visionary Kyle Wilson on the message of Jim Rohn, "America's Foremost Business Philosopher"

> JONATHAN SIMPSON

success as a worldrenowned motivational speaker can be traced to Kyle's marketing and development behind the scenes. In thanking Kyle for his partnership and friendship, Jim put it this way, "Friendship is wealth and you have made me

a rich man."
Aside from JRI,
Kyle founded
Your Success
Store, which
delivered
inspiration
from the likes
of Mark Victor
Hansen, Brian
Tracy and John
Maxwell to
more than one

"Lessons From..."

I recently caught up
with Kyle to discuss some
of Jim's outlook along with
his own, and to learn more
about his next venture.

million customers. His

newest project is called

-Jonathan Simpson

1-2-1: What do you think Jim would say to those discouraged in the midst of the struggling economy, shifting values, and worldwide tensions?

KW: At the end of the day we have control over the things that truly impact our lives. That was Jim's message. How you are improving your health? How is your relationship with your kids working out? How hard you are working? How strategic are you?

How engaged are you in being a student and learning and growing? How are you stewarding your finances? And most important, your own personal ATTITUDE? These key areas have nothing to do with what party is in power or who the president is.

As Jim Rohn would say, whether it's the Democrats or Republicans in office, your own

Days are expensive. When you spend a day, you have one less day to spend.

So make sure you spend each day wisely.

~ Jim Rohn

personal philosophy and decisions have the greatest impact on how your life works out. Now some issues may seem big, very big! But our freedom to choose and make choices overrides any other outside forces. When you have the power of choice it's hard to be a victim.

Now to put this in perspective, I have monthly contact with a couple working in Africa. Often times, the biggest challenge they're solving for themselves and their community is where their next meal is coming from. Disease on top of drought, hunger, theft, and corrupt government interference are all there bearing down on them every day, making survival the highest priority. Freedom is a little known concept, much less the concept of success. When I talk to them, I'm beyond thankful for all the freedoms and luxury I have here, including the power of choice. To paraphrase Jim,

"America is easy, Kenya is hard!"

And at the end of the day the only thing we have 100% power over is own personal choices. Choices of attitude, thoughts, habits, work ethic, health, et cetera. Your health, your relationships, your work ethic, your tendency to spend or save and—perhaps most important—your attitude are ALL determined

by you.

1-2-1: What do you say to those who believe we are losing the battle on principles and personal development.

kw: First we need to pray. My prayer list includes the president, congress, and my local government. We don't have to like decisions of our leaders. But we can make a decision

to support them through prayer.

Secondly, we need to work on our ability as influencers. Jim said that the "power position" is not the king. The "power position" is the influencer who influences the king. There were six or seven presidents to one Billy Graham who counseled them.

Lastly, in general, I believe fear-based arguments are counterproductive. Just as I believe complaining is counterproductive. What you focus on does expand. That's why it's important to be grateful for what we have (ask the children of Israel about this one). I believe we have been lured into this glass is half empty mentality and missing all the big opportunities we have on every level to make a difference. Again America is easy, Cuba is hard.

### **1-2-1::** How can we become better influencers?

kw: We should remember that we lose our ability to have an influence when we distance people. When people feel judged, they will distance themselves from you. Your agenda may work for you if you are a radio talk show host but it might not be effective in building relationships. If you are called to reach people outside, you have to have empathy. Empathy opens the door.

If you're going to have influence, you can't just go out on Facebook and create enemies, IF you want to reach people outside your sphere. If the only people who 'Like' my Facebook comments are people that would always be in agreement with me, I have zero influence outside my own group.

I had a mentor and pastor named James Jeter. He individually impacted thousands of people, including myself. He was not judgmental. Now, that doesn't mean he didn't have beliefs and convictions, but his highest value was not about "being right", it was to reach people. If you are open to hear someone out, they will be open to hear you out. I remember Bob Mumford once saying "every relationship should be reciprocal."

If you're a missionary in Iran, can you wear what you believe on your sleeve? You have to be a little smarter, right? A little more strategic? Whether here or there, wearing it on your sleeve is not where the work gets done. This gets down to results. If it doesn't work then I have to question the authenticity of my thesis of "that's the way to do it." I don't mind turning people off or having people disagree with me, but what I do mind is not getting results. It's not effective when you're distancing the very people you want to influence, so you might want to rethink your strategy.

## 1-2-1: Same in the workplace, right?

kw: Yep. "Walk it, don't talk it." If you're the real deal, you don't have to say a word. At JRI we had a daily prayer time that the employees who chose to participate took turns leading each morning. I remember telling one young lady who was a new hire about our prayer time and she responded that she was "not interested." It seemed a little bit offensive to her. We said "no worries". About three months later she came and said that she



You lose your ability to have an influence when people feel judged. They will distance themselves from you.

had a prayer request. Then I noticed over time she began to participate a little more and then a little more each day. I could tell she was changing. It wasn't long before she was leading the prayer time once a week.

Well, at the end of the year, I would always have our staff list the top twenty things that had happened to them over the year; business, personal, or whatever. That year she listed that she had "become a Christian". And what was really cool to me was that no one proselytized her at all; in fact not one person in our organization even went to the same church, yet she found it by being around it, not

from our "outreach". I am still in touch with her today. I was proud of the fact that we had not been agendadriven with her. We simply wanted to run a successful business that cared about our customers, our products and services, as well as our team.

#### 1-2-1: What's next for you?

Well, after I sold JRI and Your Success Store in October 2007, and then working for 18 months for the organization that purchased us, Jim became ill and passed away a year later. I then decided to take a sabbatical, plus I still had a few years left on my non-compete. I had been brewing on an idea however to build a new venture around "lessons from sports" where I could engage coaches and athletes and draw out their stories.

As I began to think about other professions I realized there were other good "lessons from" opportunities. I could do "lessons from hunting", "lessons from selling", "lessons from real estate", "lessons from public speaking" ... you name it. As I began to list them out, I came up with over a thousand "lessons from" topics and was able to secure the domains for each. So this is my current project, something I'm really excited and passionate about.

The most exciting part is the opportunity to connect with experts in unique fields from all demographics and backgrounds. Waiting those few years for my non-compete to end was an exercise in patience, but was also a huge blessing and opportunity to grow in many ways. But I can tell you now that it's ended I'm ready to pour it on!

For more information visit www.kylewilson.com 121

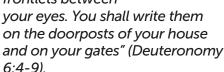
#### JONATHAN SIMPSON

serves CSM as Director of Development and assists with the Hidden Treasures Costa Rica Children's Home.

### FAMILYGRAM Continued from page 11

love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house,

when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between



The Lord reminds us to walk with Him in His presence and His ways at all times. If your children see that you put on and take off worship like an old pair of shoes, they will do the same. But if they see that you see worship as a lifestyle and that every step and every decision is submitted to God, then they will receive that same value. Jesus said to His disciples in John 15, "Abide in Me." The practice of abiding is not just a thirty minutes on a Sunday event, or a "when I feel good" event, or a circumstancebased event. Abiding is a state of constant dwelling.

In order to pass our values along, we must:

- 1) Identify Specifically
- 2) Communicate Verbally
- 3) Model Consistently

The generation that is emerging now ... the Millennials and post-Millennials ... are

very, very verbally gifted. But, perhaps because of the virtual tsunami of words in our culture, the real currency of value is in demonstrated behavior. This will be true of your children and their friends.

If we are going to effectively reach them, we've got to reassess what our true values are, how our behaviors are

> matching up with these values, and whether or not we are connecting these values with our children.

I confess, there are some

areas where I've not been a very good model. I've wanted to do better, but I've come up short. This is where grace, forgiveness, repentance, and faith come into play. When I do miss the mark, it is grace that reveals my sin to me, convicts me of it, leads me to repentance, and gives me hope and power to move onward in a right direction.

There are times when it is very appropriate to admit your mistakes to your kids, ask their forgiveness, and tell them you've asked God's forgiveness as well. In so doing, you will be modeling humility, faith, and love for them in a very practical way.

Loving parents have as their deepest desire the safety, health, happiness, and success of their kids. And no desire can be higher than knowing that our kids have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord and they are walking in His ways. Let's agree together now in prayer for these blessings for our children, and let's continue to work to pass godly values along to them.

## reading resources

I'm Saved! Now What? A Guide for Teenagers to Go Deeper with God by Chantell M. Cooley and Pastor JP Wilson (WestBow Press, 2012)



This encouraging and practical book

is a must-read for teens and young Christians, focusing on the power of godly friends, the Bible, prayer, and church. The unique format presents the thoughts of successful educator Chantell Cooley along with those of her former youth pastor, JP Wilson, who now leads the growing Liberty Church in Foley, AL. It's a winningly personal and engaging roadmap for new believers.

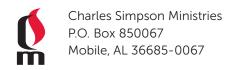
Developing Your
Relationship with the
Holy Spirit: A Daily
Devotional
by George Runyan
(Vision Publishing,
2012)



George Runyan is a "pastor of pastors" whose leadership and wisdom have

blessed thousands of Christians around the world and in San Diego, where he resides. His most recent book is a beautifully-written devotional designed to help you "grow in fellowship with God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ through a dynamic relationship with the Holy Spirit." Filled with Scripture and sound teaching, the book will deepen the reader's awareness of God's presence and refresh their hearts and minds each morning with each devotional.

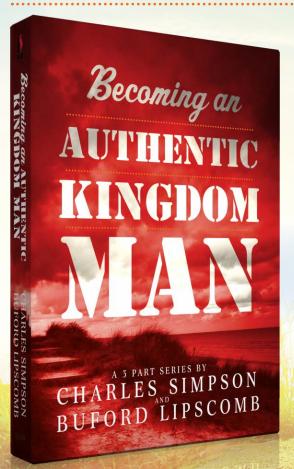
Both books are available through Amazon.com.



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