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May 2016



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PathPointe Magazine

PO Box 1895

Goldsboro, NC 27533-1895

PathPointe Magazine

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POSTMASTER: Please send address corrections to: Pathway Ministries Group, PO Box 1895, Goldsboro, NC 27533-1895.

PathPointe Magazine is written for the Faith Partners, Business Underwriters, and friends of Pathway Ministries Group.

Subscriptions: *PathPointe* is provided free of charge to interested parties within the USA, as our Lord provides. All other subscriptions are \$25.00 per year.

Address Changes: Please either send us a photocopy of your mailing label with your partner number or use the provided insert to carefully print your name, new address, and partner number and send it to: Pathway Ministries Group, Subscription Services, PO Box 1895, Goldsboro, NC 27533-1895. Please allow 6-8 weeks for address change information to be activated.

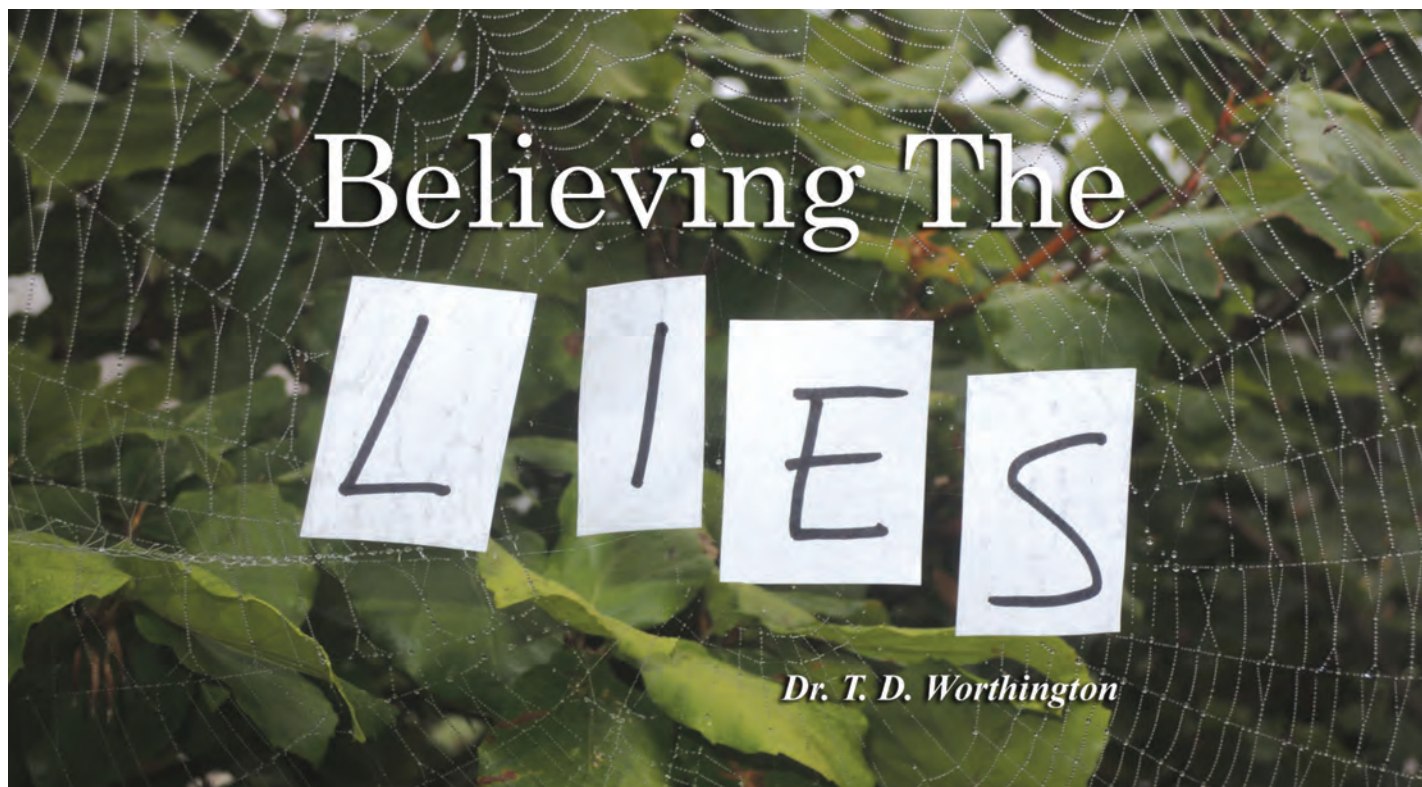
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Letters And Press Releases: There are four ways to send us material. 1. Fax to 866-537-8189. 2. By courier to 1302 South George Street, Goldsboro, NC 27530. 3. Through the mail. 4. Through our web site at GoMixRadio.org. These are in order of preference. Unsolicited manuscripts cannot be returned.

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We live in a fearful age. We are concerned about disease, economic collapse, and terrorism. However, one of my greatest fears is the fear of believing a lie. Jesus said, ***“Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32).*** If knowing the truth sets you free, then believing a lie will place you in bondage.

Of course, there have always been lies and liars, but consider the obvious fact that you hear more lies than any generation which has ever lived. For one thing, there are more people in the world than ever before, so odds are more lies are being told. Then we have modern technology, telephones, television, radio, Internet, and social media that makes it much easier for lies to be spread. Millions, dare I say billions, are reached with that which is false and deceptive every day. One little lie can fall on an unprecedented number of undiscerning ears. Now, since lies can put us in bondage and even destroy us, it makes it easy to put my fear into perspective.

I believe the vast majority of Christians are suffering the consequences of believing lies. The consequences of accepting a lie will limit our usefulness in the Kingdom and can also lead to broken relationships, fear, depression, and guilt.

Children are born with a predisposition to believe the adults in their life. That is one reason it is so easy to convince them of the existence of the Tooth Fairy or Santa Claus. The child’s survival usually depends on the dependability and integrity of an adult. Of course, that predisposition begins to deteriorate if he is constantly deceived. Or even worse, the child who is reared to believe all adults are to be trusted in spite of his knowledge of their lies, will likely grow into a gullible, undiscerning, and easily deceived adult.

We Often Believe Our Own Lies!

Human beings are masters of ***self-deception***. We talk ourselves into believing things that are not only false,

but also illogical and dumb. Atheists, for example, are masters of their own self-deception. The Lord spoke of man’s tremendous ability to believe a lie while rejecting obvious truth. ***“And because I tell you the truth, ye believe Me not” (John 8:45).***

We are prone to lie to ourselves about most everything. Tragically, we lie to ourselves so much, sometimes I am not sure we are even aware of it. For example: *“I want a certain brand of tennis shoe because they will help me jump higher, and if I get a new sports car I will really be cool.”* We are naive to the point that we can be completely unaware of the rampant lying going on in our own minds.

Some have convinced themselves that all they need to make them happy is a better house or another spouse. I have also known people who have accepted vicious lies about themselves. They believed they were hopeless, that *they could* never change, that nothing they do really mattered, that

they don't deserve love, happiness, justice, mercy, or a million other things. They were trapped by the lies they told themselves. Others believe they are not capable, or they don't have the resources to accomplish anything worthwhile in life.

Some hold other people responsible for their pain. Others have called wrong right for so long that they constantly clamor to prove their lie is correct. To them, being wrong is unthinkable and they will go to any length to demonstrate their rightness. Not only do we lie to ourselves, we also manipulate ourselves to base our actions upon the lie. Sometimes, as often seen in politicians, it can get so bad as to convince ourselves of two opposing lies and then be foolish enough to believe them both!

We need to realize how deceptive we can be to ourselves. We tell ourselves lies, half-truths, and anything but the pure truth every day. These lies make us blind to our own amazing opportunities. They destroy our self-esteem, crush our self-confidence, and leave us looking for self-worth everywhere except the right place.

Although lying about others can do much damage, perhaps the most damaging lies are the lies we tell ourselves. We live in denial of who we are and what we are capable of. So, our biggest battles for truth may not come from the liar who lives down the street but may come from our own minds. What I believe to be true about God, others, and myself, shape my interpretation of life's opportunities and events.

Since self-deception happens in the subconscious mind, and lying by its very nature will mask itself as truth:

How do we know when we are lying to ourselves? Obviously, you can't simply ask yourself whether you are lying because you have already mastered lying to yourself. So, how do you know when you are deceiving yourself?

We need to ask the Holy Spirit to reveal the sources of our thoughts and to give us the ability to recognize the lies that present themselves as truth. Jesus told us that ***“When the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth” (John 16:13).*** Ask Him to show you if there are any lies at work in your life that may be causing you fear or pain. Ask Him to give you wisdom to discern the Spirit of truth from the spirit of error.

Of Course, I'm Not the Only Liar in the World!

If God offered me a choice of two super powers, I might choose the power to always make the right decisions (*imagine the power of having that gift even for one hour*),

and next I might choose the power to always discern the liars from the truth-tellers. Wouldn't it be cool to walk around in public places, eavesdrop on conversations, and know immediately if someone is lying or speaking the truth? I could visit the halls of Congress or listen to the words of our President and quickly expose the deception and verify the truth.

I would go to social events and exercise my gift. I could add a new dynamic to weddings by my very presence. I could sit in the courtrooms and know instantly if the witness was lying or telling the truth. Of course, such a hero with this super power would not be liked very well. It is unlikely I would be invited to many social events—even funerals. I would not even be welcomed in most churches. Why? Because people lie all the time, and most really don't want to hear the truth. There are the lies of lovers, the lies of advertisers, the lies of businesses, the lies of theologians, and the lies of government. In fact, in today's culture, the very definition





of being a politically correct and nice person often hinges on being the biggest liar. After all, you shouldn't say anything to offend anyone.

“Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do, he was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”

John 8:44

Jesus clearly revealed Satan's intentions: ***“The thief cometh not but for to steal, and to kill and to destroy” (John 10:10).*** Satan's ultimate goal is to promote death and destruction; and spreading lies and empowering liars helps him achieve his evil goal.

But, if he can persuade us to accept his whispered lies as truth, those thoughts and ideas

become part of who we are, how we feel, and how we act.

So, it is our job to learn which of these millions of ideas that cross our minds should be accepted, and which should be rejected. Believing lies will tend to separate us from God and make us feel powerless, and hopeless. The more we yield to the lies, the more we pull away from God and become confused about who we are and how we are to live.

The more we believe these lies, the more complicated, confusing, and unhealthy our life and relationships become. With enough lies, we can even silence the voice of the Holy Spirit.

So, I must learn to recognize the source from which any thought originates. Was it a truth that originates with the Holy Spirit, or is it a lie from the father of lies? Thoughts are always drifting through our minds and initially we may have no idea where these thoughts come from; but if we accept them, they will affect our emotions and behavior. They can

destroy our families, our testimonies, and our peace. These thoughts have to be analyzed, evaluated, and given their proper credit. We must learn to discern the lies from the truths.

All lies and deceptions spring from Satan's own heart. By uncovering those lies and exposing them for what they are, we can begin to live in the truth while we destroy the works of the devil.

If you are a Christian, God lives within you; the Spirit of Whom Jesus said will ***“guide you in all truth.”*** Give Him liberty to do His work in you. Listen to His voice. There are so many voices clamoring for our attention that God has a hard time getting through today, but we must be attentive to the sound of His voice. Fear God, for that is the beginning of knowledge. Walk in truth. Over and over again the Scriptures give us warning to ***“be not deceived.”***

So, just like everyone else I have certain fears, however, my biggest fear is that I will believe a lie. Perhaps my fear is stronger because I am a pastor; therefore I may lead others astray. I don't know the exact reason, but I know the fear is real. I fear I may fall for the lie I tell myself, or I may accept some else's lie as the truth. Either way, it will be an instrument the devil can use to hinder my usefulness to our Lord. As perfect love casts out fear and as the Holy Spirit guides me in all truth, I will continue my labor holding fast to the truth of God.



Dr. Worthington has been in the ministry forty years and serves as President of Pathway Ministries.



Meeting Needs

Dr. Glenn Mills

“The young lions do lack, and suffer hunger: but they that seek the Lord shall not want any good thing.”

Psalm 34:10

If there is one thing we can learn from this Scripture, it is the fact that God will keep His Word and always take care of His children. If we look closer, this Scripture says more than just that. Take note at who is having their needs fully met. It is those who seek the Lord. Not everyone is seeking God. There are those who are looking for His hand (supply), but not His face (presence).

“And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.”

Jeremiah 29:13

The Scripture also says we will find God when we search for Him with all our heart. God does not want us to have a casual relationship with Him. He wants our whole heart as well as our undivided attention.

“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.”

Romans 8:28

Who are the called? It is those who have accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour, of course. Their sins have been washed away by the blood of the Lamb, and now they are the children of God. With that comes all the blessings

of God as well. God is now our Father, and He desires to love and help us. Like any good Father, He also desires to spend time with us and commune with us. He wants to know we really love Him and desire His presence as well.

Read His Word, seek His face, and receive His promises. He will meet all your needs in every area of your life.



Dr. Glenn Mills is a full-time Evangelist with the Open Arms Evangelistic Ministry. He can be heard each weekday on GoMix Christian Radio.



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GoMix Honors Our Faithful Preachers

We are privileged to enjoy fellowship with a great number of faithful preachers who boldly proclaim the Word of God. However, we accept the fact that their calling can often be difficult and unappreciated.

People in the business world have a tough job as do those who serve in the health care and medical professions. We also honor those who serve in our military and in law enforcement. Yet, have you ever wondered why there are thousands of businesspeople, medical workers, military personnel, and other service workers in our area, but so few faithful preachers?

Certainly it isn't because God is not calling faithful men to serve in this capacity. Perhaps it is because it takes a really brave and tough man to be a Gospel preacher.

Few people are up to the challenge and pressure of the ministry. You have to pick yourself up when you are flat on the ground. You have to be able to pray even when you don't feel God's presence. You have to inspire others to live for Christ even at times when you feel like quitting. Preachers engage in hand to hand combat with Satan every day. They are so hated by the devil. Most faithful preachers' face more temptation in one hour than most of us do in an entire day.

They are often ridiculed, and their message is seldom regarded. Faithful preachers are always hated by someone. They invest their lives in people, a majority of which don't even care. They spend hours in prayer and study, and the people needing the message the most can't muster the strength to crawl out of bed on Sunday mornings.

Why are there so few faithful preachers? Perhaps it is because most people are just not quite brave and tough enough to accept the call. Although preaching the Word is one of the highest honors God can give, most would prefer a profession with less pressure and more appreciation.

If you are privileged to have a Godly preacher filling the pulpit at your church, consider yourself blessed. Be faithful to your church because each service you have the opportunity to hear the Word of God preached by one of the strongest and bravest men you will ever meet.



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We All Have A Purpose

There was a recent video of a judge in Bibb County, Georgia, that went viral on the internet. The judge spoke to a group of adolescents in court that appeared to be there due to gang-related incidences and other small crimes. As she spoke, she warned of the places a life of crime would eventually lead as she held up a body bag and gave an inspiring message of how each individual was uniquely made and given life for a specific, greater purpose. She said she believes the world in such bad shape because many of those who were called for a higher purpose decided not to take it, but to take the easy way out instead.

As Christians, we could also say the same. God's Word tells us we are here for a reason.

“Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.”

Isaiah 43:7

“In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him

who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will: That we should be to the praise of his glory, who first trusted in Christ.”

Ephesians 1:11-12

Maybe today, the shape of our country has been determined by the lack of Christians getting involved. Whether it's a lack of involvement in politics, communities, churches, soul-winning, or even our own families, we all have areas of failure. We have no excuses. We cannot point the finger at others. There are no exceptions in God's Word that read, *“I only expect a few people to bring Me glory because many others have good excuses.”*

We must be serious about the responsibilities God has given us. Each and every one of us, as Christians, are here to bring Him glory. We cannot take the easy way out. We must be involved in reaching others for Christ with the little time we have left.



The Prodigal's Mom.

Mrs. Sherry Worthington

Have you ever wondered where the mother was in the parable of the Prodigal Son? This beautiful story unfolds in Luke 15:11-32.

A father had two sons. The younger son wanted to get his inheritance early, and his father agreed to give it to him. Let's call him Tom. Tom left home to make his way in the world with his newly found fortune. He wasted every dime in worldly adventures. I am sure he had lots of friends helping him spend his money.

One day Tom ran out of money, and he ran out of friends. There was a famine in the land, and he became

very hungry. Tom got a job feeding the pigs and got so hungry he wanted to eat the pig food.

The most important phrase in the parable follows, "and when *he came to himself*." He began to think of home as he sat in the pig pen. Tom knew that his father's servants ate better than he did, and he longed to go home. He practiced what he would tell his father, and he began his journey home.

His father saw him a long way off. He ran to him, kissed him, and welcomed him home. He welcomed Tom home as his son, not his servant.

This son had to get in the pig pen before *he ever came to himself*. I wonder if mom would have let him get in the pig pen?

The Bible does not mention the young man's mother. It is possible she is dead and no longer a part of his life. Perhaps she died in child birth or from a serious disease. The truth is, we really don't know.

Perhaps the mother questioned the father giving the son his inheritance. She would have known Tom was not mature enough to handle that much money. She might have objected to her husband handing over that kind of

cash. She could only imagine what kind of trouble her son was going to get into.

Perhaps Tom's parents had many conversations about him. They often discussed his rebellious attitude. His mom worked so hard to fix it, and his father wanted to let him experience the school of hard knocks. He felt Tom needed to experience the consequences of his actions.

I wonder if Tom's mother was fussing about the decision the father had made. Did she complain and gripe because Dad did not listen to her, and now her baby boy was off in the world living riotously? Did she claim it was his fault her son had left?

It is possible Tom's mother was like this, but I prefer another scenario. Perhaps mom was anxiously waiting for her son to come home, too. She did not understand her husband's decision, and it broke her heart when her son hugged her for the last time. Mom also understood that Tom was very rebellious and had not listened to their counsel.

Tom's mother and father had discussed on many occasions how they were afraid for their son. When Tom's father shared with his wife what he was planning to do, she was afraid for her child. She knew she had lost her son already, but she trusted her husband.

I would like to think every morning Tom's parents stood together looking for him to come home. If Tom's mother were alive, I would hope she would be right by her husband's side.

The truth is, God gives children moms and dads for a reason. We are wired differently. We each play a different role in our children's lives.

In general, fathers want to teach their children to be strong and courageous. When life gets tough, we must get tougher. They want to teach them to govern their lives by principles. Whereas, mothers nurture and put the Band-aids on the "boo boos." We want to kiss it and make it better.

Moms and Dads need to be a mixture of both. A mom teaches herself to be strong and not let the children whine their way out of situations. A dad learns to have compassion on the "boo boo." We need to be balanced in our child rearing.

If Tom had not gotten in the pig pen, he would never have come to himself. He would never have straightened out nor come back home. Unfortunately, moms and dads today want to bail their children out of every difficulty and every struggle. They do not allow them to think for themselves.

I know someone who had a difficult decision to make. His son was constantly getting into trouble with the police. He had bailed him out once, and he ended right back in jail for the same thing. He finally decided to let him stay in jail for a while. I guess it was the scared straight tactic. It worked! His son was not perfect, but he straightened out.

As a mother, I tend to want to fix things. Many times I may get in the way of what God is trying to do in my child's life. It is so very important that we spend time in prayer and ask God what He would have us to do.

When our children move out of the home, they need to learn through the struggles. They don't need everything that their parents have now. If they are married, they need to grow together

in the day to day struggles. They should build their home together and figure out the problems. When we fix everything, we handicap their marriage and their ability to care for themselves.

Unfortunately, moms and dads seem to have changed. In times past, Dad was a better disciplinarian than Mom, but it is not always the case anymore. Moms and Dads need to teach their children to make the hard choices.

What would happen if your children got in the pig pen? Would you get them out before the lesson was learned? It is so hard to watch our children hurt. We take our children to the doctor to get a shot because we know it is for their good. I guess it is the same philosophy. As a mother to adult children, they sometimes have problems my husband and I could fix. There are times when we come to the rescue, but more times than not, we pray and wait for God to work it out in their lives.

Is it easy? No. It is painful knowing we can fix something, but realizing it would only hurt them in the long run to do so. I can only imagine how God must feel when we are on the wrong road. He loves us with a perfect love, yet knows where the road we are on is taking us. He patiently waits for us to make the U-turn and head back home.

Isn't it time to head in the direction that leads home? Our Father is waiting!



Mrs. Worthington has five children and eight grandchildren. She serves as Principal of Pathway Christian Academy in Goldsboro.



What do you want God to do for you? What do you need? What are your dreams and desires? I hope you don't feel like I'm barraging you with questions, it's just sometimes we need to ask ourselves questions like these and be truthful with our responses. With that being said, I have one final question for you: Have you told God about your needs, dreams, and desires? If you haven't, you really should. You see, it's like this; when we talk with God about what's going on in our lives, we're showing God we have need of Him, and we trust Him.

We're telling God we recognize He is our Source.

Need more reasons to talk to God? Then listen carefully, because I'm about to give you three.

Whatever you need, God has it. God's riches in glory are inexhaustible and never-ending!

"But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus."
Philippians 4:19

God will give you the desires of your heart.

"Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart."

Psalm 37:4

With God, dreams come true. Get it in your mind that with God all things are possible to those who believe.

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to

the power that worketh in us,”
Ephesians 3:20

You may be thinking, “I don’t have to tell God what I need. God knows everything and that includes knowing what I need.”

My reply is... you’re partly right. Jesus Himself said in **Matthew 6:32** the Father already knows what we need before we ask. He also knows our desires and our dreams. But God still requires we ask Him for those things. Read what the Word of God says in the book of James. God expects us to ask! He expects us to tell Him what we need.

“Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not.”
James 4:2

Picture the story at the end of **Matthew 20** in your mind. Jesus and His disciples are leaving the city of Jericho, and they’re being followed by a large crowd. Two blind men are sitting by the roadside, and they hear Jesus is passing by. So they cried out in Verse 30, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David.” The crowd tried to hush them and tell them to be quiet, but the two blind men refused to be silenced. They refused because they had a need and Jesus was the answer to their need. The Answer was passing by. Determined, the two blind men cried out again, and this time their cries were even louder than before, “Have mercy on us, O Lord, thou son of David.” Read as the story continues.

“And Jesus stood still, and called them, and said, What will ye that I shall do unto you? They say unto him, Lord, that our eyes may be opened. So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.”
Matthew 20:32-34

Remember, there were two blind men present that day, not three. Jesus wasn’t blind. He could see their need in their sightless eyes. And yet, Jesus still asked them, “What will ye that I shall do unto you?” The men were blind, not dumb. They recognized the Answer to their need was waiting for their reply. So without any hesitation they told Jesus what they needed. They wanted their eyes to be opened.

Now get this. Although Jesus already knew what the blind men needed, it wasn’t until they told Him what they needed that He touched their eyes, and immediately the two blind men regained their sight.

A couple of years ago after talking with God about some of my needs and desires, He spoke to my heart, “You have not, because you ask not.” The Lord then showed me multiple rows of huge storehouses. As I talked with the Lord I heard Him say, “I have more than enough to meet your needs. Stop trying to supply your own needs. Ask of me. Ask BIG of me and know that your big is small for me.”

In that instant I realized God’s supply to all our needs is already ready and



accessible to us. And not just ready and accessible, but stored-up! So how does “supply” move from God’s storehouse to us? It’s by submitting a verbal requisition to God. And in this instance, it’s the same thing as asking God.

Listen up! God doesn’t have a maximum limit. There is no limit to what God can and will supply. You may max out a credit card, but you will never max out GOD. Whether you have one big-time need, a hundred little needs, or a mixture of big-time and little needs, the truth of the matter is - your needs, desires and dreams will never surpass God’s provision. They will never exceed God’s supply. Therefore, ask BIG!



Debra Joy Wallace is a Christian columnist and speaker. More information is available at www.debrawallace.com.

And Finally...



Older Americans...

I am a caregiver, and one of my clients is an awesome older American. She will celebrate her 100th birthday this coming November. She is diagnosed with dementia, but that doesn't keep her from being a devout Christian. We have a great time together. We ride around in a convertible with the top down, get pedicures, and go out to eat. With all of this, her favorite thing to do is to talk about God's Word. When in the right "moment", she can talk about any subject from the Bible and always get the facts straight, but later forgets having the conversation. How blessed we are that God is all-knowing! To me the most important thing a caregiver can offer other than assisting with personal care, is to make sure of the client's salvation. This dear lady is a model older American, and I thank God for her being in my life.

M. W.

The older person I admire the most is my grandfather. I admire him the most for many different reasons. One reason I look up to him is because he is a pretty successful person. He didn't have much growing up, especially since his father died at a young age, and his mother had a hard time making ends meet. Little by little he started to work hard and save his money. He became a successful businessman at only about 25 years old. I admire the fact of how he had nothing and still managed to do good for himself. I think my grandfather is proof that if you work hard at something, anything is possible. I also admire him because he is a very nice man. I have run into some tough times in my life, but he has always been there for me. He has been a great husband, a great father, and especially a great grandfather. I just hope my life turns out to be similar to his.

M. D.

My grandmother was born in 1919 and knew the hardships of the Great Depression and raising children during a time when jobs were scarce and discrimination was prevalent. She always talked to me about life, its struggles, and the desire to be more than my surroundings. She told me that despite being raised in poverty, I didn't have to continue to live at that socioeconomic level. She encouraged me to set a goal in life, and do whatever I could to reach that goal. After high school, I talked to her about joining the military. She encouraged me to go for it, to live life to the fullest, and to remember all the things I was taught and lessons I learned growing up. "Never forget who you are," she would say. I then joined the military and traveled the world.

J. S.

"My Cousin"

We'd like your help for an upcoming edition of "And Finally..."

Cousins day is in July! Write to us in 150 words or less and tell us a story about your cousins. The deadline for submission is May 15th, 2016.

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