

Heart to Heart

*Bringing our hearts to Him,
Receiving His Heart for us!*

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Dear ,

What do Hitler, St. Francis and Everyman have in common?

Only this: they are the subject of my musings in this newsletter on the human condition...and that they are bringing to you insights that came to me through the men at the Old Savannah City Mission: where the rubber of the gospel really meets the road of hard knocks.

Steve

The "Mirror of Perfection"

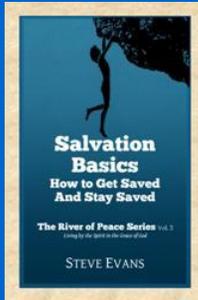
The sight of his fire sets our hearts on fire...

They called him the "Mirror of Perfection." He was so unlike anyone else that they had ever met. Who had ever loved Jesus as extravagantly as he did? Much of what he did confounded or alarmed the religious authorities of his day, but the common people loved him for it! He didn't set out to do it, but his passionate pursuit of Christ launched a movement that changed the religious landscape of Europe forever.

He also has the distinction of being one of only three people in history **celebrated for "getting naked"** in their extravagant zeal for the Lord. The first was David who danced naked before the Lord when he brought the ark up to Jerusalem. The second was Isaiah who traversed the Northern Kingdom naked for three years as a prophetic sign of the coming judgment (that a conquering power, Assyria, would strip the people and carry them off captive).

By now you should know the third: Francis of Assisi. Almost 800 years ago he stripped down in the town square of Assisi, returned his clothes to his father Pietro Bernadone, and walked (buck naked) out of Assisi and into the hearts of a bewildered yet adoring mankind.

I was showing the first half of **"Brother Sun, Sister Moon"** to the men at the Mission not too long ago and was frankly surprised by its affect upon these hard-boiled veterans of the streets who couldn't have picked his statue out in a line up of garden objects. But they sure could relate to the opening scenes of Francis' long-dormant conscience being painfully awakened to see the horrors and degradation of the world around him through newly

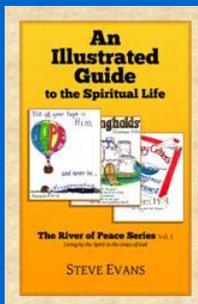


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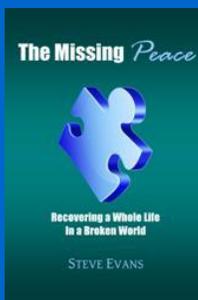


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transformed eyes of faith.

They could also relate to the way fresh faith had awakened an awareness of the beauty of the natural world around him which his pursuit of carnal pleasure had blinded him from seeing. I can only hope (for these men know how to keep their innermost life secret) that the scenes of Francis' life also awakened in them **the same resolute desire to live just as extravagantly for the Lord in our day as Francis did in his.**

I am encouraged in this hope, because mine were not the only un-dry eyes in the house... **Check it out: it is a movie well worth seeing and life well worth living.**

Hitler and the "Big Lie"

Try not to fall for it...

Hitler wrote in *Mein Kampf* that to be successful at lying one should tell the "Big Lie"--a lie so "colossal" that no one would believe that someone "could have the impudence to distort the truth so infamously." Hitler had learned from his master well. The enemy has been bamboozling humanity with many lies, but it is the Big Lie that shows both his brass and his mastery of the art.

Let me lead up to my point this way: I was speaking with one of the new men at the Mission--fresh out of his 20 or more years of addiction to crack. **I described the big lies that the devil had him believing:** #1 that crack was GOOD and #2, which was even more compelling, that he desperately, deeply NEEDED it. He really witnessed to these truths and could see those two lies for what they are...now.

Before you feel too removed (if you don't have a substance addiction), have you bought the lie that you desperately, deeply need other people to affirm you? Or that you just have to have things a certain way? Or that... These "big lies" are hard enough to see when we are caught in them ourselves, let alone get enduring victories over them once they have been exposed.

Then I lowered the boom. I said, "As big as those big lies were, you would never, ever have fallen for them, if you hadn't **already swallowed the Biggest Lie, hook line and sinker.**" He was all ears, "What lie was that?" "That you really didn't need to live for Jesus; that living for Jesus would somehow keep you from your true pleasure; that it would somehow make your life less than you hoped you could make it." (I knew he had known Jesus during all those years; but it would apply equally well to "finding God and getting God into your life" if he had been an unbeliever.)

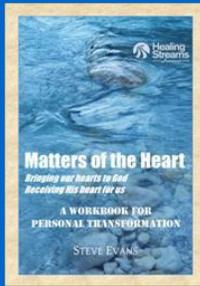
Somehow the enemy manages to make the most desirable thing--living for the Lord, drawing closer to the Lord, surrendering ALL to the Lord, submitting entirely to the Lord--into the less desirable thing. And then he gets us to think that it's our own thought process and deepest feelings we are listening to when we

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"draw back." **What a lie!!! Jesus is the most endlessly fascinating Being in the Universe!** Don't buy into the lie--press into God for more of Jesus instead!

A Song for "Everyman"

Or how to choose to lose the blues...

The "Problem of Pain" is the title of one of C.S. Lewis's books. The phrase I remember from it is: "Pain is God's megaphone." He described pain as the way God gets our attention. To that I say, "Yes, He gets my attention, but that doesn't always mean I'm getting the message!"

When I was very young I was a monkey. My older brother and I were in the back yard trees climbing and clinging like crazy all day long. Then came the day when I jumped out (parachute practice), landed on my back and broke my arm. I was age 5. There were complications, surgery and months of recuperation. By the time I was back in trees I was busy building tree houses--with walls! Bye, bye, little monkey...

I learned to be more careful in trees, but it was trees that I came to fear, not that foolish, reckless streak in me which had been the real cause of the accident. Now that would have been a lesson worth the pain but I didn't get the message.

In my office sat "Everyman." ("Everyman" was the character in medieval dramas who stood in for all of us. It is also an outstanding song by Jackson Browne.) We talked for over an hour about ALL kinds of issues in the spiritual life. His fresh return to sobriety has him on fire for the Lord. He can't wait to run the race and gain the prize this time around. Then I mentioned, "You know, you're going to have to let the Lord mend your emotional life..."

I didn't get to finish the sentence. "Whoa! Me and emotions? I've been hurt so bad, I was suicidal..." After a couple of minutes, I said "Do you realize that ever since I mentioned emotions you've been going off like a Roman candle? You can't afford not to work with them!"

Like so many of us, he learned entirely the wrong lesson from his emotional pain. He doesn't want to get burned again, so he is blaming "the hot stove"--the world of people around him. He is thinking that now that he is living for Jesus, Jesus will keep him from being hurt by people! I'll continue when the laughter subsides...

Here are the FACTS of life Under Redemption:

- 1) You *will* get hurt. Often. (Jesus did; so did Paul.)
- 2) You are way bigger and tougher than any pain--you have the indestructible life of Jesus in you joined to you in the core of your

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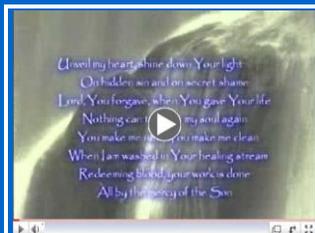
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very being! You are indestructible because He is.

3) None of the emotional pain you have been through killed you. Pain can't kill you. You are a survivor--about to become a "thrivor"!

4) All of the pain is being used for your good. One day you will see this clearly and call it a "slight affliction" that worked a far greater "weight of glory" into you. You can actually get that attitude now.

5) All of the emotional pain that ever came into you can be gotten out of you. People who say that they have been scarred for life or that there are just some things you can't get over, don't know what they are talking about! They know themselves, but they don't yet know what their God can do, if only they would cooperate with His ways of mending them.

There is so much more. Check out [Mending The Broken Heart](#) at our website!

From We to Thee *Preparing for the Harvest...*



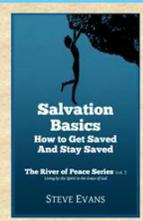
From the pages of our new
website forerunners4Him.org

has come a new book:
Salvation Basics: How to Get Saved and Stay Saved.

This is the book that I had always wished that I could have had on hand to give out to people either seeking to be saved or the newly saved. They have so many questions! And almost all of the books I had failed to directly address those questions or show people step by step how to pray their heart cry up to the Lord. The Lord has led me into answering my own prayers from years ago for a book like this: how cool is that?

This is also the book that the men at the Mission have helped me to write. It has been through working with them that I have gained far more clarity (I believe) into the deeper issues of how to stay saved. Hey, we all know that getting saved is easy--it is staying in the joy of His salvation (Ps 51) that is the tricky part. Check out a sample at amazon.

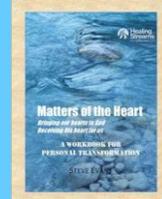
We will supply this book at half price (for orders of 10 or more) to any group or individual wanting to distribute them to seekers and new believers!



Steve and Eunice

Truths with Traction!

A lifetime of learning has gone into the workbook that forms the basis of what we teach. Steve likes to say that these truths have been field tested! They are "**truths with traction**," guaranteed to get your emotional life unstuck from those pesky stronghold areas that the enemy loves to bring our walk to a halt with.



All it takes is a small investment your time and treasure to have so many secrets of the heart opened to your understanding. In our seminars it is a constant thrill to see "**the lights go on**" for the students. Now you can have the seminar experience in the comfort of your own home! How can you resist? This is the 176 page 8 1/2" x11" ring-bound booklet that we use in class.

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Healings Streams is a Christian ministry dedicated to helping people find peace and freedom from troubling issues of the emotional life. Such deep roots often become the source for a host of stress related diseases, psychological disorders and addictions. Even so, our goal for people is not just escape from emotional stress and its consequences, but full entry into true Kingdom living-plunging into the river of Peace that flows all around us from the throne of Grace.

Let's all jump in!

Sincerely,

Steve and Eunice Evans

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