August 2014

Heart to Heart

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Dear,

If you ask Christians, we will all tell you that we believe in Jesus. But have we been "blinded" by the light? The all important issue of believing doesn't end there. The demons also believe that God the Father and Jesus exist, but they take no joy or peace in believing it. Neither do they live surrendered to Him in trust and obedience. That's where the "good fight of faith" has to be fought against the stronghold of UNBELIEF...

Steve

The Power of "Active" Believing

Joy and peace are within your reach...

Believing is the "engine" that empowers the new life, but you can't leave it in neutral and expect forward movement. The critical issue is believing God's written Word--with a *full* heart of faith. John says that he wrote his gospel in order for us to believe and that *by believing* we might have life.

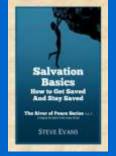


But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name. John 20:31

What John means by life is **more than mere existence** and it is not limited to heaven only. John is writing about a quality of life that is filled with joy, peace and love--what the Bible calls eternal life, new creation life, or abundant life.

Peter says that **the joy that God wants to give us** through believing can come to us even when we are in the midst of trials--and it saves our souls *in this life*, that is, it brings peace and confidence to our heart and mind.

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials... Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with

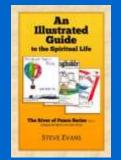


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glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:6, 8-9

Peter is telling us that there is a way to hold our faith, even in the midst of hard trials, so that we have "inexpressible" and glorious joy--deep, inward encouragement. **This is not will power. You cannot fake this kind of joy.** You cannot work it up by your own efforts.

This kind of joy is something you get to experience **by learning to agree with the truth about God that you most need to agree with in the time of your trial**.

Being united to the right truth about God will automatically begin producing joy in you. That is the power of the Holy Spirit. Such joy is the fruit of dealing with unbelief and *learning to mix your faith with the truth of God's Word* (Hebrews 4:1-2). But know this: very often your feelings, your understanding, and your circumstances will seem to be shouting out that God's Word can't be true for you.

We are not to lean on our understanding (Proverbs 3:5) or be led by our feelings (Romans 8:14). Trusting in God with our whole heart means our new life will depend upon our ability to believe in God even when our understanding can't understand and our feelings are kicking and screaming. That kind of believing in God is hard work, but **this is the real** work we are called to do.

Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." John 6:29

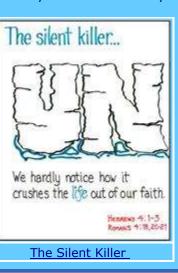
The Silent Killer You hardly notice how it robs you of peace...

Unbelief is a stronghold that the enemy has built into every

believer. I call it the "silent killer" because we are hardly ever

aware of its power working against us. It seems like such a normal and reasonable reaction considering the situation we face.

The truth is that we all have limits to what we are presently able to believe about God and to what we are able to believe God for. If this were not so we would already be filled with the joy that Peter says can come even in the midst of hard trials--just as Paul and Silas received while





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Video Shorts

<u>Stress Effects</u> What emotional stress does to your body.

Holes in the Heart A life lesson learned on a Honduran road.

<u>A Warrior's Heart</u> Joyce fought Lupus and and

still in prison (Acts 16:25).

We are not there yet and so it is vital that we begin to learn to recognize the ways in which our own unbelief is limiting our growth in the Lord and keeping us bound to emotional reactions of the past. **Biblical faith in God is believing God at His Word**, even in the face of great adversity.

The wandering in the wilderness happened because the children of Israel drew back in fear and unbelief from following God and Moses when it came down to fighting to enter the Promised Land, their place of "rest." *Have you been wandering, seeking rest, and finding none?*

Our promised place of rest is the peace that passes understanding--the peace Jesus gives us in any situation whenever we surrender our fears and our obedience to Him, letting Him take charge. *There is no peace without complete surrender.* Surrendering to the Lord in the face of stiff temptations and unexpected troubles doesn't happen "naturally" or every Christian would do it.

That's were "active" faith comes in. Whenever our inner state or our outward circumstances aren't the way we wish them to be, the Holy Spirit is prompting us to **activate our** *faith in one of God's magnificent promises*. As we work to believe His Word that He is with us, that He loves us, that even this will be made to work for our good, the Holy Spirit restores us to peace and confidence in God--*our Promised Land!*

Believing the "Impossible"

God's answer to the Fall..

A convincing temptation to doubt God's Word precipitated the fall into sin. So convincing is the enemy's deception, that *at critical points in our growth* we will find it much easier to believe the lies that the enemy has sown into our lives, than the truths from God's Word that the Holy Spirit is seeking to teach us. *Forewarned is forearmed!*



The Word of the Lord is the effective instrument by which everything that now exists was created. All of creation is a testimony to **the truth and power of God's Word** to create and to sustain life. It is impossible that God could ever speak forth a Word that would not be true--His word is Truth; He cannot lie.

There is one whose word cannot be trusted. From the beginning God's Word has been contested by Satan. He seeks to "father" us into believing his lies, his distorted perspective,

abuse and won.

Resources



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Featured Video



Mercy of the Son with stream

and his false ways.

God seeks a people who will believe in His Word. God's answer to the Fall was to seek a son of Adam who would believe God at His Word and therefore become the spiritual father to a nation of restored believers. In calling Abraham God promised him great things which Abraham at first gladly believed.

Please take careful note of this: God did not make it easy for Abraham to go on believing the promises. The unexpectedly long delay between the promises and their fulfillment (with the birth of Isaac) severely tested Abraham's ability to believe God's Word.

Just as Abraham, we too have been given magnificent, lifegiving promises through God's Word. Some of these promises have to do with who He is to us; some have to do with who we are in Him; some have to do with what our life in God could become.

God does not make those promises easy to believe. Sometimes they may seem impossible to believe at all. We may stagger in unbelief, but we must learn Abraham's way who, contrary to hope, in hope believed--if we are to reap the full life of faith promised to us and enter our Promised Land of peace and joy--*in this life*.

By which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature. 2 Peter 1:4

From We to Thee Preparing for the Harvest...

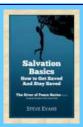


From the pages of our new website <u>forerunners4Him.org</u> has come a new book: Salvation Basics: How to Get 9

Salvation Basics: How to Get Saved and Stay Saved.

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<u>amazon</u>.

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

Healing Streams Ministry A branch of Forerunner Ministries, Inc.