

A Gift of Faith Book

17

Part 3

HELPFUL HINTS

—BOOK 2—

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Helpful Hints

—Book 2—

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Part 3

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Photo by M. McNally

42.) Thoughtful and Polite

When you are watching an interesting bird, or you spot an insect you have never seen before, it makes you curious and you want to look at it for a while. Perhaps you ask someone nearby, “What is that called?” or other questions, as you want to find out all you can.

The birds and bugs and other animals don’t usually mind you talking about them, being curious, and watching them—as long as you aren’t disturbing them. However, it’s different with people.

Animals and people are so very different, because people have more feelings in their heart, and what people say about them, or how they look at them, or whether or not people like them, makes a big difference to them.



Photo by M. McNally

If someone was walking by and people stopped to look at them and stare and then began to talk with each other about them—especially while they were still right nearby and could hear that people were talking about them, it could make them feel unhappy.

People need to feel others aren't just looking at their outer appearance or only noticing a physical difference or handicap or something that appears unusual about them, but they need to know that others like them for who they are, and appreciate them. People want others to treat them with consideration and courtesy.



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

It's courteous to smile and look into someone's eyes, instead of looking at something that is less than perfect about them. It's courteous to say hello and greet someone that you meet, rather than talking about them with others, or asking questions about things they would rather not talk about.

People need their feelings respected, and they need to feel loved and accepted by others. When we are careful about what we do and say around people, and we choose to show kindness in the way we want kindness shown to us, then they will be like a plant that perks up with watering, and a flower that blooms.



Photo by Chariane Quille

43.) Have a Seat

It's so nice to feel comfortable and to have something soft to sit on, especially when you are tired or aren't feeling well. Everyone likes to have a great place to sit when they are in a meeting, or eating a meal, or watching a show, or needing to listen to someone talking or teaching something.

When you are younger it can be fun to sit in a big soft chair—the best one in the room! But did you know that it's a wonderful gift you can give someone else—to allow them the chance to sit in the best and most comfortable place?

Giving up the best seat to someone else, or those who are older than you—like your parents or other adults, or to a visitor, is like offering them a reward for all the hard work they do.



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

You may think it's nice to sit in the best place, but someone who is older may be really tired from all the work they had to do, or may not be feeling very well, or they have something that is uncomfortable bothering them since their body is older.

Having a good place to sit might be just the thing they need to help them feel better. It's nice to show love and respect to adults or those visiting by giving them the nicest seats.

They'll reward you with their thanks and smiles, and by acting cheerful and pleasant around you, because you helped them to feel more comfortable.

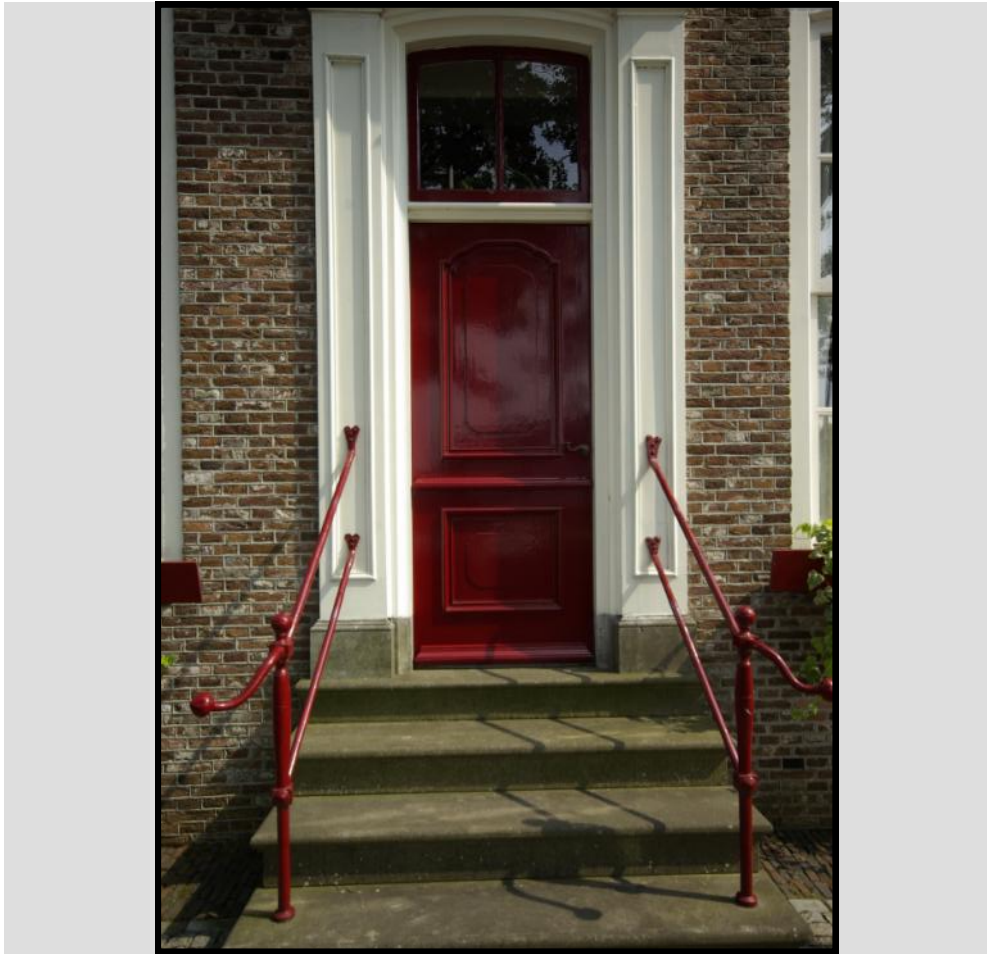


Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

44.) Visitors

“Ding-dong” goes the door bell, and you know your visitor has arrived. Perhaps you have been expecting a friend, relative, or neighbour to come to your house, and you and your family have prepared for it. You wanted them to enjoy a pleasant time at your house.

Sometimes visitors are unexpected, and they deserve just as much hospitality too. You can show your kindness in welcoming them with simple and thoughtful deeds. How do you know what to do to make them feel comfortable and happy to be in your house? Well, imagine if you were going to someone else’s house and you didn’t know where anything was—like where to put your coat, or where to get a drink of water. You might even feel a bit shy, wondering what to do or say.



Photo by M. McNally

Others might feel that way too when they visit you, so you can make it easy for them to relax and enjoy their time. You can smile and tell them you are glad to have them visiting you. You can introduce yourself, and find out their name too, if you don't already know it. You can show them where to sit and offer them the nicest place.

You can offer them a warm drink, or a cool glass of water, or some food. You can make sure they know where the bathroom is, or any other part of the house that they might need to find, like the door to the backyard, if you are planning to go out there together.

You can ask them questions about things that they might like to talk about. People like to explain things about themselves to others, and it makes them feel that those listening are interested in them and that makes them feel loved.



Photo by M. McNally

Also, when you try to get to know them, and find out more about them, it makes them feel like you'll understand them better—and everyone wants to be understood and accepted.

You can show and tell them about something that will entertain them—like playing a song for them, or telling funny jokes, or showing them a picture you've drawn, or something you've worked on making.

They also want to get to know you—that's often why they are visiting anyway.

If there are children visiting, you can share some of your toys too, or offer to play something together. These little deeds of thoughtfulness will make a big difference to your visitor, and they will be glad for the time spent with you and your family.

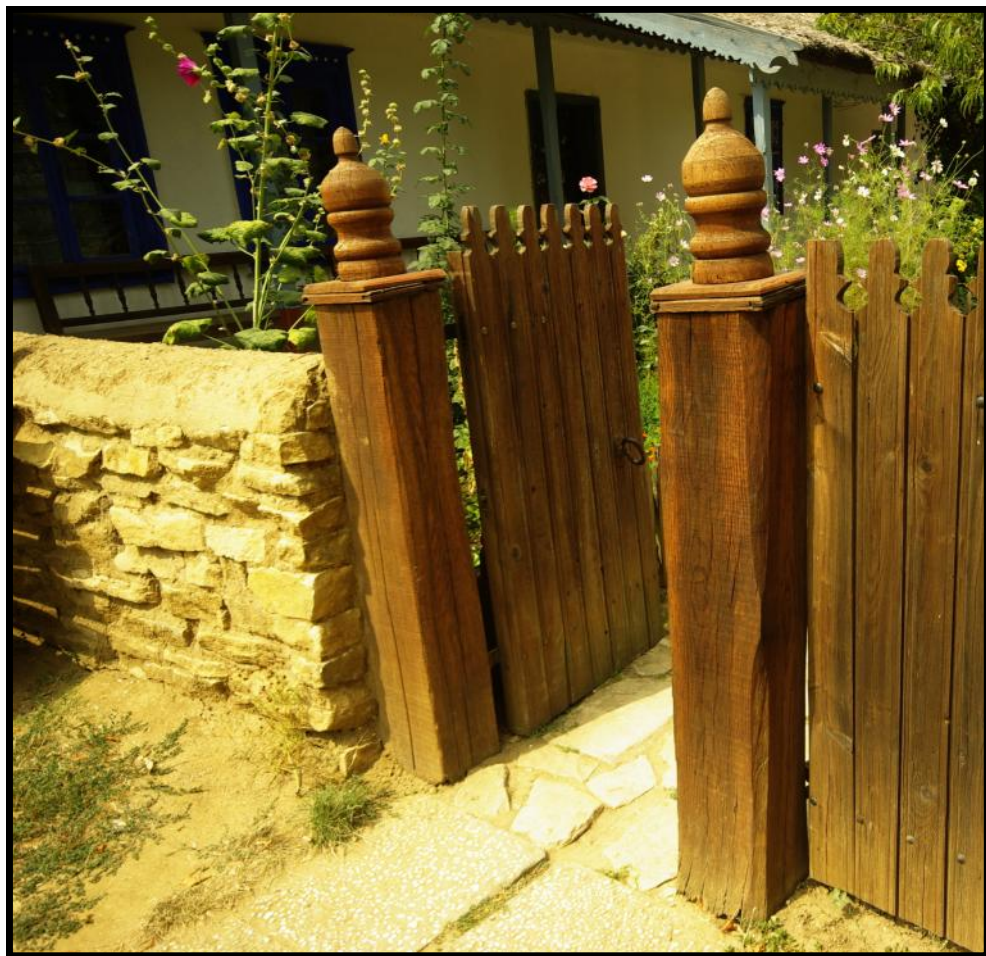


Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

45.) Being a Guest

It can be fun getting to see others' houses and meeting friends for a nice time together. Everyone wants to have an enjoyable time, and when your hosts make you feel welcome and show you kindness it helps you to feel at ease.

But what are some things that you, as a guest at someone's house, can do to make them glad to have you, and feel you are pleasant company? Here are some tips that will make you a super guest!

--Introduce yourself to anyone at the house that does not know you yet.

--Say, "Thank you" for anything offered you that you want to accept, and "No, thank you", if you do not want it.



Photo by M. McNally

--Offer to help in any way you can.

--Be friendly, cheerful, and calm.

--Be careful with their house, furniture, dishes, or any toys, books or items offered to you to use while you are there.

--Use your most polite ways of talking and acting.

--Show kindness and courtesy, thinking more about the feelings and needs of those you are visiting, than about what you think you would like.

--Show your appreciation for all that your hosts are doing to make your visit pleasant, and when you say good-bye, be sure to thank them for their kindness.



Photo by Naomi

46.) Answering and Responding

There are some bugs and creatures that make interesting noises to communicate—like a beetle that makes a tapping noise that he wants another beetle just like him to hear and respond to. It's his way of finding a partner. He must be glad to hear the tapping sound of another beetle answering him back.

People like to talk to others as well, and need to express themselves, and there are so many ways that people can communicate.

Letters, phone calls, texting, talking, and using sign language, are some of the ways that people pass on what they are thinking, and what they use to communicate with others.



Photo by M. McNally

When we try to tell someone something, either in person, or with a letter, or on the phone, it feels so nice when we are responded to and answered. We like knowing that someone has heard us. It is so nice when the people we are trying to talk with acknowledge what we are saying.

We appreciate receiving answers to our questions, comments on our stories and experiences, good advice and ideas from others, and it feels good when those we hope to hear back from let us know in some way that they heard or read what we wanted to tell them. It's thoughtful to do the same to others.

Did you know you are important to others, and it makes them feel important and special too when you take the time to answer and respond to them when they talk to you or write you a letter?

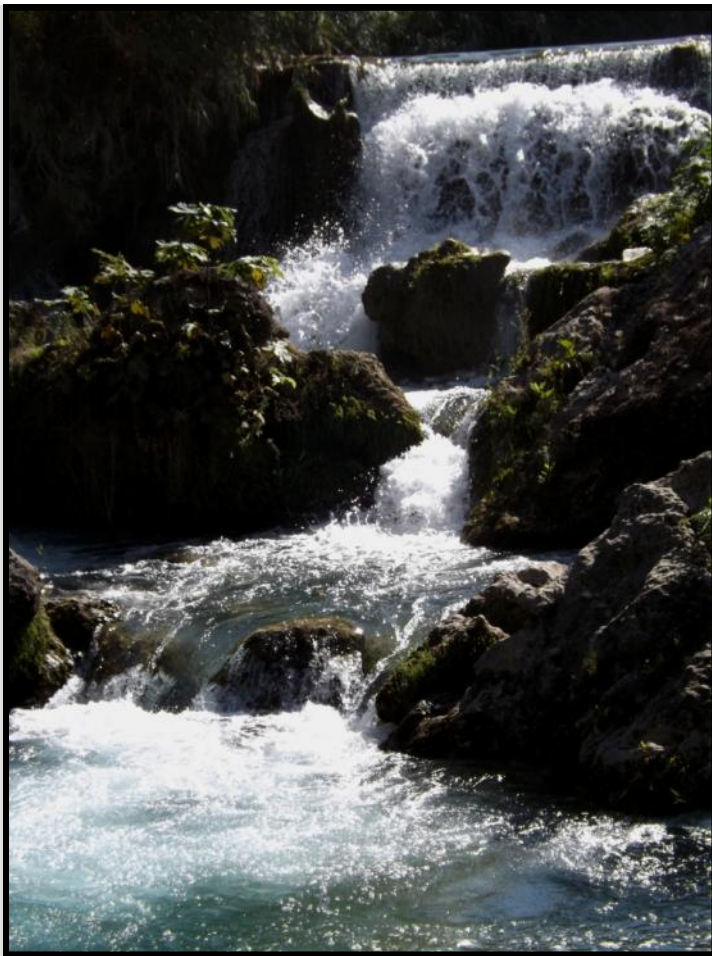


Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

It can be kind of like the water cycle.

When someone communicates with us it can be like water that is evaporated—they send their words and thoughts to us. And when we respond to them, and in nice, polite ways, it can be like sending down refreshing rain on a dry ground, or can be like a nice cold drink of water.

The Bible says, “As cold waters to a thirsty soul, so is good news from a far country.”

And God’s words to us are also described in the Bible as water that descends and makes the crops grow so we can have food. (Proverbs 25:25 and Isaiah 55:10-11.) Jesus is always ready to answer us and talk to us about anything we want to ask Him. And His words make our heart happy and fill us with just what we need—His words are like water and food for our spirit.



Photo by S.d.B

47.) Step Aside—Slow Down—Wait

Drivers of vehicles have to be alert and aware of what is going on. They can't just say, "I'm driving on this road, so I think everyone and everything will move out of my way when they see me." That wouldn't be a safe way to drive, and it wouldn't be thoughtful or considerate either.

Have you ever needed to cross the road and saw the cars stop for you? That made it safe and easy for you to get to where you were going.

Sometimes drivers have to move their cars out of their parking spot too, if they are too close to another car and the other driver can't pull out. Or if a driver sees that they have stopped their car in front of a driveway, they need to move or else the people in that house can't drive out.



Photo by M. McNally

As we each go along our day going here and there, doing this and that, we need to be like wise, attentive, good drivers.

We need to notice when it would be best to stop walking or running, so as not to bump into someone, or we need to move out of the way when we see someone is carrying a heavy load.

We can give the “right of way” to people with big loads or who are struggling to walk along, or are pushing a stroller, or holding a baby, or who might be using crutches, or who are in a wheelchair.

For drivers of cars the “right of way” means it’s the person who gets to drive first, while the other cars wait for them, then the other cars can go.



Photo by M. McNally

It's wise to notice when it would be best to move out of the way, to stop, or wait, to make it easier and safer for others.

Being considerate in this way can save you and others from accidents, and give you a better day!



Photo by Naomi

48.) Covering Your Mouth

Sometimes when you are driving along a road in a town you will see someone's garage door open. Perhaps it's where they park their car, and they probably keep a collection of all kinds of other stuff in there as well.

Sometimes people keep handyman tools or paint cans, or rags for cleaning, or old boxes of unneeded items, or broken machines and equipment to be fixed. If it's a place that is filled with all kinds of things, when the door is opened it probably doesn't look so tidy, and isn't the best view. When the garage door is shut it looks nice, as you can't see what is inside.



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

Sometimes our lips can be like a garage door. We need to open the door of our mouth to send out words and to talk—like a car that needs to drive out and get things done. Or we need to eat and bring the good nourishment that we need into our mouth “garage”.

But there are also times when it’s best to put a covering over our mouth, so that it’s more pleasant for others around us.

Here are some times when it’s polite to cover your mouth:

--When you need to sneeze, cough or yawn.

--If you must talk and respond to someone right then, even if you have food in your mouth.

--And of course it’s best to keep the doors of your mouth—your lips—shut when you are chewing. This makes for a better view for those around you.



Photo by Naomi

49.) Neat, Tidy, and Clean

Have you ever seen a really nice painting? Maybe it was of some hills and a lovely sunset, or of a peaceful meadow, or perhaps it was of a lake or pond with ducks and swans gliding along on it.

Looking at something that looks nice, as well as orderly, can make you feel peaceful and it's refreshing for your mind and thoughts. It can make you feel better just looking at something that is artistic in a pretty way.

Do you know that you are like a big, living, and moving picture that people want to see? When you are wearing a smile, and have taken the time to make your face clean, and have brushed your hair, it's like painting a nice picture for people to look at.



Photo by M. McNally

If your clothes are often dirty or torn or miss-matched, and you have dirt in your fingernails nearly all the time, it's like a smudge has happened on the picture, and people can't see the beauty as clearly.

There are lots of good and fun things that we can and need to do each day that make us get dirty or messy, and it doesn't mean that we have to stop doing those things—like eating, or playing outside, or fixing a car, or doing finger painting! That would be silly.

So we can't always look our best when there are some good and important things to do.



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

However, when we are finished doing something messy, and it's time to look good for others, then we can wash up, brush our hair, scrub our fingernails, and put on clothes that look nice and presentable.

It will be like we just painted a fancy picture of ourselves for people to enjoy looking at.

When we look nice, smell fresh, and add a smile of cheer to our face it will make all those around glad to look at the picture of us—the real living picture that we are. They will feel happy and enjoy the view!



Photo by Naomi

50.) Helpful Thoughts: Prayer and Praise

What makes the difference between raw foods or cooked foods? —Especially with something like rice, or tea leaves, potatoes, beans, or squash. When you have those foods, it's great because you have food to eat, or a nice warm drink to enjoy. But if you want them to be a benefit to you, you need to cook them in some way, right?

It wouldn't be much of a help when you are hungry to sit down at a table and have a plate filled with rock-hard uncooked beans and rice, and a slice of raw squash. You would leave the table still hungry. However, if you put those hard foods into some real hot water for a while, then something happens. These foods change into something that you can easily chew and eat—and then you aren't hungry anymore.



Photo by M. McNally

We all have thoughts in our minds, all day long, and having a mind that can think clearly can be a good tool, it can be a great help. Thoughts can lead us to do good things for others. Our mind can think and help us figure out problems and find solutions.

Having a mind filled with good thoughts is like having a pantry or shelf filled with good food like the ones listed above. But if you want those thoughts to really do some good, and to help the people around you, and even help those that are in faraway places, you need to change them—into prayers!

You can use the thoughts that come to your mind as a reminder of something to talk to Jesus about, and what to pray for and ask for His help in.



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

You can also use your thoughts to remind you to praise the Lord for something that He has done. Those thoughts then become extra useful and beneficial.

Thoughts that have been turned into prayers can make your life and the lives of those you are praying for so much better, and can help to bring to you all that you need. If you just think about someone you love, and how glad you are for them, it can make you feel happy.

Then if you remember to pray for them too—changing your nice thoughts into something that will help them, like into a prayer asking Jesus to keep them safe and happy—it will make so many good things come into your life and into others' lives, and you'll have a great day too!