

A Gift of Faith Book

9



Part 3 (of 4)

Life's Little Lessons

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—Book 1—

Part 3 (of 4)

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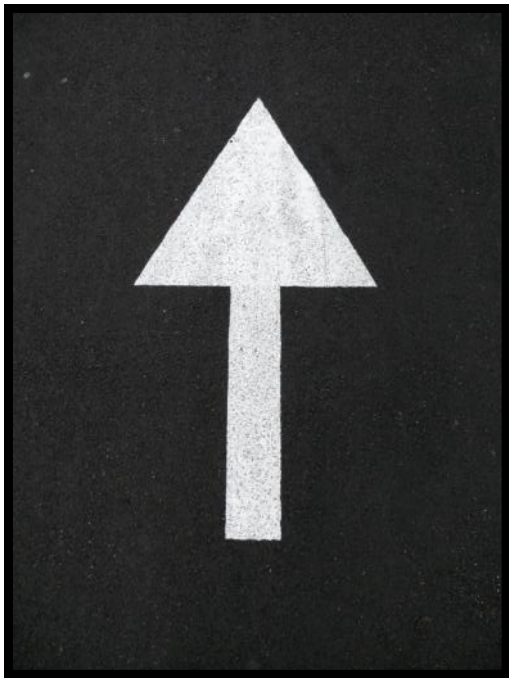
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Going God's Way

Sometimes it's hard to know what to do and you wonder what God's way is. Doing things God's way means doing whatever is the most loving thing.

If you're not sure what to do, then ask yourself, "What is the most loving thing to do in this situation?"

If you follow through and do the loving thing, you'll be going God's way. It's a good little rule to keep in mind. Remember, God is love and whatever is done in His love will work out.



Truth

God speaks the truth. He only tells facts. We can trust that what He tell us, and what is written in His Word—the Bible—is the truth.

We can not trust the words of people in the world who speak things opposite to what God said.

When God says something, we know it will happen. When we can trust God and His Word, this helps us to feel safe and happy, and know that it is good to obey what He tells us to do.



Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life." (John 14:6) We who have received Jesus' gift of Salvation and want to follow in God's ways, need to always speak the truth, as well.

If people can trust that what we say is the truth, then they can also believe us when we tell them about Jesus, and the way to Heaven.

There is no room for lies and false ideas in the mouths of those who love and follow Jesus.

We need to show a good example to others of being trustworthy and speaking things that are true and good, honesty and right.



Choice

Jesus likes to give us a choice because He likes to see what choices we will make of our own free will. Just like when your mummy asks you, "Do you want to wear this outfit today or that one? You choose."

Jesus likes to give us the same kind of freedom, too. —Because He loves us and He wants us to learn how to make good choices. What we decide to do will affect us and others around us.



Photos by Jon Berg

What you choose to say will make a big difference and affect a lot of things.

What you choose to see or listen to or watch will affect how healthy and happy your heart and mind are. Choices to eat good food will affect how healthy you are.

Unwise or selfish choices will make us sad and could cause us to have accidents. Good and loving choices will make us and Jesus happy.



Making Decisions

Making wise decisions takes thought and prayer, and knowing *God's Word* too. If we only rush to do what comes to our mind we will probably end up regretting a lot of the things we do. Deciding to do things that are faith- and life-building will make us much happier.

Sometimes it's hard to do what we know is the right thing, but Jesus can help us choose to do what is best anyway, even if it seems difficult at first. If you stop to ask Jesus before you make a decision, you can be sure that your decision will be a good one.



Photo by Jon Berg

Choosing Friends

Having a friend is so special! A friend is someone who likes to be with you and likes doing the things that you do.

One reason friends are so special is because real, true friends are hard to find.

The best kinds of friends are those who encourage you to do good things and help you to be a better person.



Photo by Curtis Peter van Gorder

Watch out for friends who want to go places or do things that you know you shouldn't do, or who think about and say things that aren't encouraging or faith-building.

Friendship is a precious gift from Jesus, so ask Him to give you His choice of a friend.



Photo by Jon Berg

Togetherhness

It's fun to play and work together with others that have the same goals, ideas, and plans as you.

If you and others are all in agreement as to what you are doing and how you want to go about something, this makes the project or game or activity go well.

But if someone is trying to make themselves appear better than others, or they aren't appreciating the good qualities that the others have, then it causes disunity and disruption.



Photo by Jon Berg

Choose good friends and teammates to play with and do things together with, people who also believe as you do.

It's good to work with those who want to follow Jesus too. Then when you talk about plans or there are differences of opinion you can pray together, and each one can choose to do the most loving thing, speaking humbly and respectfully to each other.

You'll have a great time then.

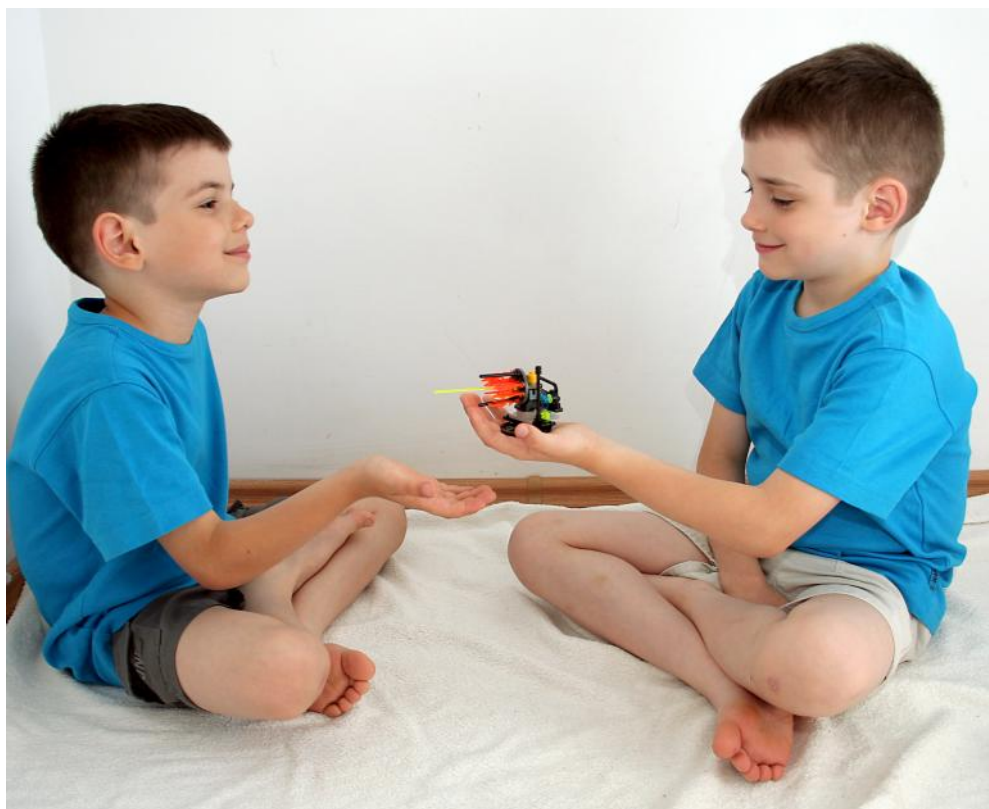


Photo by Naomi

Giving

Jesus has lots of surprises and gifts for those who make the right choice to be kind, helpful, and giving.

You will be so glad for every deed, every prayer, every bit of love shared, every time you obeyed Jesus even when it was hard, every time you helped someone come to know Jesus. He'll give you so much in return.

Putting others' needs first, and sharing what you can to make them happy, also puts a smile on Jesus' face. He then has special ways of thanking you and giving to you.

No matter how much you give away to others, Jesus has much more that He can give back to you.



Thankfulness

Be thankful for everything, no matter what happens, because you know that if you love Jesus, all things will work out for the best in the end. Everything can and will turn out well.

So why wait? Thank Jesus now, before you even see all the good that is to come. That shows faith in Him, and really makes Him glad.

Jesus will be so pleased to hear these words of faith and praise that He'll tell the angels. And all Heaven will want to make you even happier.



No Murmuring

To complain and grumble about the few things that you don't have, forgetting all the other great things that Jesus and others do for you, shows that you don't have faith and trust in *God's* care.

If you make it a good habit to constantly look for what is good about each situation and person, and you make it a practice to put those positive thoughts into words, you'll find yourself happier.

Your life will improve the more you think about the good, talk about the nice things, compliment others, and enjoy what you do have—things that you forgot about or were too busy to notice.

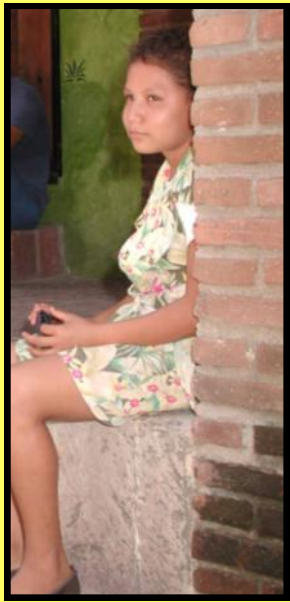


Overcoming Problems

God's power is the greatest power in the whole world! Not only is He all-powerful, but He also loves us so much that He is always ready to help us.

We may run into problems that seem really big and difficult for us, but all we have to do is ask Jesus for help. He's just waiting for us to ask Him.

When you have God's power helping you, you're unbeatable! He'll help you lift any load and make it over any obstacle or problem.



Tests and Trials

Every day you are going to encounter something that leaves you feeling a bit sad, or like something is missing in your life.

Maybe others have something that you wish you had. Perhaps you are struggling with learning something new. Maybe you are sick or hurt in some way.

These things are hard to experience. But you know, everything that is difficult can also be our helper. It can teach us to pray and to receive special miracles.



Difficult times and situations can help us to be more understanding and gentle with others.

We learn faith and patience. And best of all, nothing difficult will last forever.

It will all pass away one day. In Heaven there won't be anything that causes sorrow or pain. We'll only know joy and fun then.



Photo by tf-photography.com

God's Help and Power

Since God made this world, and us, and the whole universe, He certainly can help us and care for us.

Things that seem too difficult for anyone, are very simple and easy for Him to do. There is nothing that is impossible for God.

If we believe God can do it, and it is something that will bring good in the end, then He is very happy to do anything to help us.

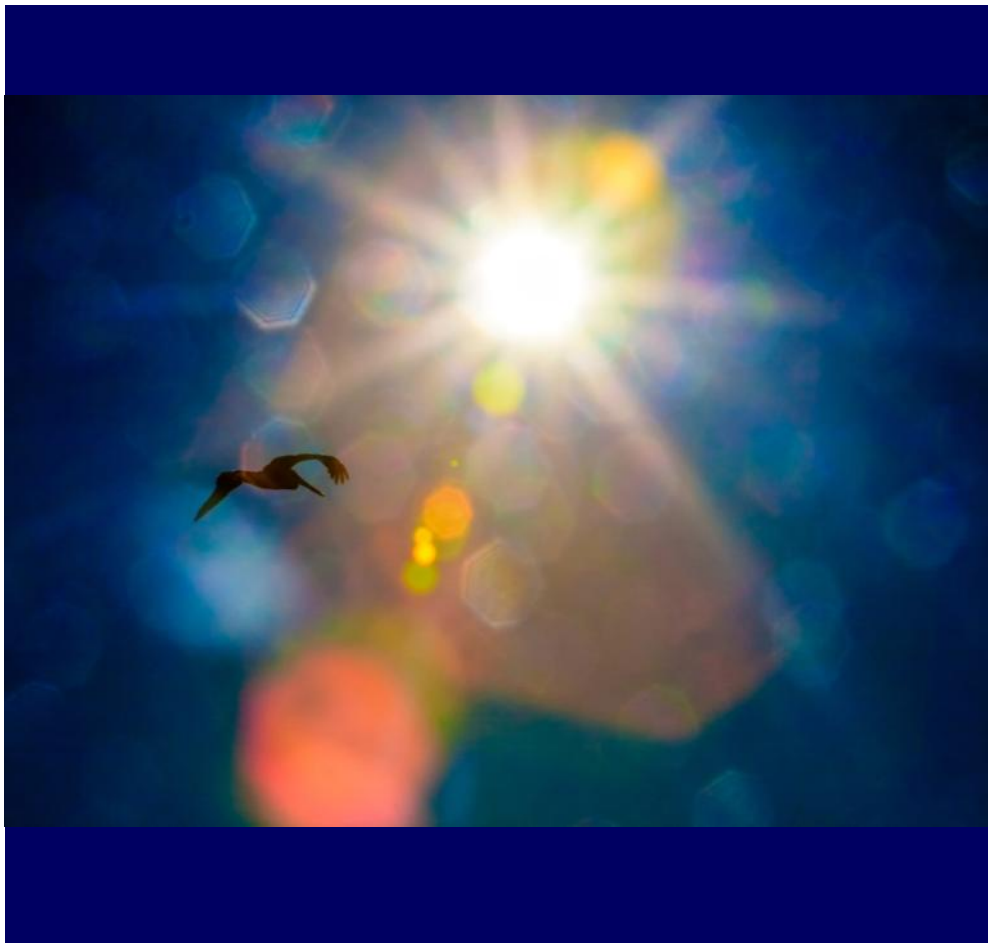


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Miracles and wonderful things can happen for those who pray and have faith that God hears and will answer.

God can heal anything, supply our needs, protect us, guide us, and help us to do anything that is good.

Why not ask Him now to give you the help you need? He is eager and waiting to use His awesome power to work good for you and others.



No Worries

When Jesus was in the ship with His disciples and a big storm came, the disciples were very worried and afraid. They thought the stormy waves and wind would capsize their ship! But they forgot that they had the Son of God on board.

As soon as they woke up Jesus and asked Him for help, He got up and commanded the waves and the wind to be still. And soon enough the sea was calm and they could keep on sailing to the other side of the lake.



The disciples got all worried and afraid because they forgot about Jesus. Instead they looked at the storm and the waves and their weak little boat. They looked at all the problems instead of looking to Jesus. But as soon as they called out to Him, He rescued them.

Jesus can do miracles like that for you, too!

He can bring peace to your heart and mind, no matter what is going on around you. He's stronger than anything and He loves to take good care of you.



Resisting the Devil

Everything that is the opposite of *God's way* is only going to make you and others sick, sad, and ugly. And you don't have to tolerate it at all.

God's way is love, joy, peace, beauty, health, inspiration, faith, and goodness!

If you see something that isn't the way *God* wants things to be, then pray to ask Him to help it to change.



If unpleasant and bad thoughts, ideas, and words come into your mind, call out to Jesus and think about His Word.

You can even sing a song that brings godly thoughts and feelings to you, and start doing something positive.

Tell the Enemy to leave and to have no part in your life. Fill your life and thoughts and heart with love, review God's Word and promises, and you'll be on the way to victory.