

Heart to Heart

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

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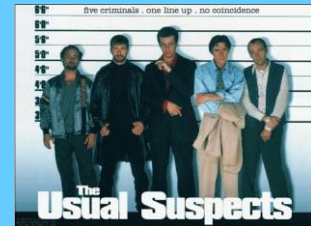
I love paradox and irony! Here are three selections which (I hope) will put on glorious display the upside-down, counter-intuitive nature of the Kingdom. Enjoy!

Steve

The 2nd Greatest Trick of the Enemy

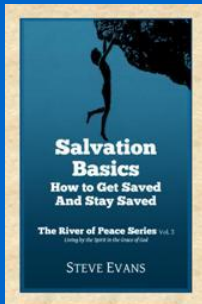
Make sure you haven't fallen for this one...

If you've seen *The Usual Suspects*, then you know that according to the Kevin Spacey character, "The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing the world he didn't exist." ***That is laughably low on the list.*** Hiding the reality of his existence from sin-blinded humanity is a parlor trick for Satan: It is easy for spiritual darkness to hide in the shadows. ***How in the world did he "hide" God?***



The single greatest Being in the universe, bigger than the universe He created; the Lover and Sustainer of everything that exists; the Beginning and the End of everyone and everything; the One who is closer to you than your next breath, He who lives in unending Light: How do you hide the Light of Life in plain sight? Yet, Paul says that's just what the devil did: "The god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God" (2 Corinthians 4:4-5 ESV). ***Unquestionably, that was the greatest trick the devil ever pulled.***

But wait a minute; wasn't I going to tell you about the second greatest trick? Sure, but you have to see the greatest one first and appreciate the ***immensity*** of the deception involved. We grew up so thoroughly under that one that it seems natural for people to question God's existence. Everyone is born blind, unable to "see" the greatest Person in their life. ***It may be as common as the cold, but it is incredibly unnatural!*** You have to be thoroughly deceived not to know that there is loving, forgiving, help-giving God right there with you all the time. Yet such blindness was

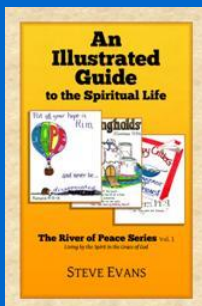


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certainly my story, ***until Jesus turned on the Lights.*** Only then did true spiritual life begin.

That brings us to the second greatest trick, one which closely rivals the first and may be even more diabolically clever: If the devil cannot keep Jesus from being received as Savior, how does he manage to make Him seem undesirable as Lord? How is it possible that a once blinded worldling (such as we were) can behold Jesus by faith and yet choose to turn from Him to follow Self instead? Your spiritual health depends upon this one, since you can have a spiritual life through knowing Jesus as Savior, but have no quality of life if you don't choose to let Him become your Lord.

A blind worldling cannot be blamed for having no idea that the most Beautiful Being in the Universe desires to be his/her Friend and Guide. But now that the Light is turned on for us, we know better. Following Jesus produces joy and peace; following Self leads into stress and mess. Let's keep our **eyes on Jesus!**

A Challenge to Go All Out

I hope you are surprised... and delighted by this!

Do you have what it takes? Do you have what it takes to live your life with a heart on fire for God? Every Christian at new birth needs and gets **the starter kit**: faith in Christ, the indwelling Spirit and the Bible. But the starter kit doesn't keep the fires burning after the honeymoon is over. Do you have what it takes? ***It takes two things that every Christian has and no Christian wants***--a sin nature as deep and dark as hell itself and a world of troubles!



1) You sin nature is unintentionally helping you. According to Jesus ***those who are forgiven much love much***, so it is helpful for us that we realize afresh each day the reality of our sin-weaknesses so that we can reap the enjoyment of His mercy being made new to us every morning! The truth is that every temptation to sin and every glance at the ruin of the self-life apart from God can be a spring board which sails us up into the heavenlies in heartfelt appreciation for the love and mercy that covers us every instant of our lives.

The ones who know that their sinfulness and weaknesses are incorrigible and without excuse are actually set free to live ***a life of grace supported by grace alone***--if they do the work of believing that His mercy and love are as good as He says they are (on our "work" see John 6:28-29).

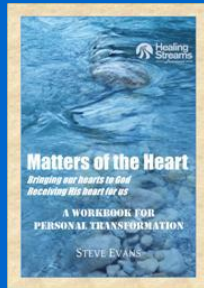
2) Likewise we all need troubles to free us from seeking to be our own savior; troubles which bring us into a place where we fully trust His power to be at work on our behalf. But for this we need

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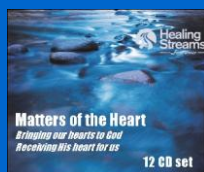
Holes in the Heart

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Joyce fought Lupus and and
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Resources



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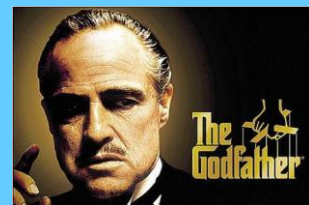
troubles that are too big (in our own eyes) for us to handle--otherwise we will keep on stressing ourselves trying to manage our own lives in our own strength. The Lord makes sure that we have these sorts of troubles. For our own good!

The ones who know that their troubles are way beyond their abilities are finally set free to live **a life of grace supported by His power**--confidently trusting themselves to His unfailing guidance, saving help and promises.

An Offer You Can't Refuse

This is too good to be true, but it is true...

Your past now holds the promise of giving you a great future! It may seem strange, but the problem is never our past. It is our inability, so far, to reap the hidden blessings our past contains, for **it holds the God-given potential** of perfectly preparing us to live as more than conquerors in our present and future. How can this be? It will happen in two ways:



1) The Absolute Command (see Mark 11:25). We will reap the future we yearn for as we finally come into obedience where mercy is concerned and have forgiven all of the ones who have failed us in the past. We also have to fully receive forgiveness over all of the ways we have failed God, others and ourselves--this means fully forgiving and accepting ourselves as well. By doing so we will have gained **a graced ability both to give and to receive forgiveness** at the level life requires. At last we will have learned how to live in the glorious liberty promised us, untroubled by sins of the past or the present, whether ours or others. How? **By fulfilling the Absolute Command of Jesus!**

The very fact that we carry pain, anger and shame out of the past proves that we are ill equipped to live in the present and have not grown the spiritual "muscles" needed to move without fear into our future. So long as our past is un-mended by total forgiveness it is secretly screaming at us that God cannot be trusted because He allows people to hurt us in ways we "can't get over" or that we can't be loved because we did something "unforgiveable." This binds all kinds of fears and insecurities inside us as well as the pain of unreleased wrongs.

2) The Magnificent Promise (see Romans 8:28). We will reap the future we yearn for as we learn to fully believe the life-saving truth that everything that has ever happened to us in the past will be made to work overwhelmingly for our good--once we give it back to God in believing faith. By this we gain the ability to believe in God's ability to overturn evil with good over our present and future troubles--of which there are sure to be plenty.

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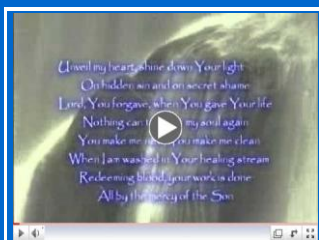
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Unbelief over the past binds us to unbelief in the present

and keeps us from living that life of faith and grace which is entirely dependent upon God fulfilling His promises to us. Our confidence in Him is what releases us to live in childlike simplicity of trust in the present, knowing that whatever He allows, He is always ultimately working it for our good and His glory. ***There is never a reason to fear the future once we have become free of the past.***

God our Father is making these promises to us. Don't be a "spiritual couch potato"! Make sure you do the work of fully forgiving from the heart and fully believing His promise of restoration. ***It's an offer you can't refuse!***

Follow these links for more on [forgiving others](#) and [believing the promises](#).

From We to Thee

Preparing for the Harvest...

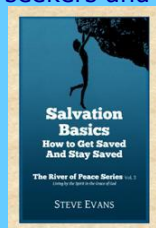


From the pages of our new website forerunners4Him.org has come a new book:

Salvation Basics: How to Get Saved and Stay Saved.

This is 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

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Let's all jump in!

Sincerely,

Steve and Eunice Evans

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