

January 2015

PRICELESS

# On Good Ground



Volume 14  
Issue Two

## Happy New You!

Praise the Lord! He has brought us into 2015 and another year filled with the grace and promise of God. He did this despite the numerous attempts by the devil to keep us from getting to this point. In 2014, the enemy hurled at us sickness, pain, depression and discouragement. He influenced others to attack us, lie on us, betray us and leave us. He tried to steal our identity in God and get us to doubt our right standing with Him. All to no avail, for God's sufficient grace brought us through and here we are, ready for a new year.

For many, 2015 represents a new start. A chance to put behind them the heartache and disappointment of 2014. Some have boldly declared that things will be different this year, and they are sincere in their declaration. But sincerity has no power, only truth. Jesus said the Word of God is truth (John 17:17), and we know the Word has power. Therefore any declaration we make, now at the start of the New Year or at any time thereafter, must be Word-based if we want our declarations to have power. And nowhere in the Word does God say things will be different just because the calendar has advanced. God says things change in our lives when we change. So instead of wishing you a Happy New Year, we wish you a Happy New You!

In the book of Romans, Paul said, "Don't copy the behavior and customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think" (Romans 12:2 NLT). The King James version of this verse says, "*be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind.*" God is not concerned with changing things, His focus is on changing us – His beloved sons and daughters! God wants us to be conformed to the image of His Son, Jesus (Romans 8:29). The Word says, "But we all with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, *are changed into the same image, from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord*" (2 Corinthians 3:18).

God is looking for change in 2015, all right, but He's not looking for *things* to change, He's looking for *us* to change! And He wants to make us more like Him. Notice that God is not leaving it up to us to keep resolutions or to exercise our will power to bring about the needed change within. He said that we are changed into His image, *by the Spirit of the Lord!* The Holy Ghost will bring about the change that we need. He will provide the power we need to break those bad habits and form new ones. He will give us the strength to say "no" to temptation and cry out, "Yes, Lord!"

Remember what Jesus told His disciples before he ascended to heaven, "**You shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you**" (Acts 1:8). Included with that power is the power to change, to become a new you who reflects more and more the glory of the Lord Jesus! That's the only way it's going to happen. Hear God declare it: "*Not by might, nor by [human] power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts*" (Zechariah 4:6). The change we all need this year, comes from the Spirit of the Living God.

So do not focus on the New Year – there's no power in that. After all, calendars are a convenience for man; God exists outside of time. So a new year, new month or new day does not move God. Obedience and faithfulness does. He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him (Hebrews 11:6). Seek Him out more than ever this year and allow him to change the way you think and to give you a new heart, one that is aligned more with His own. As your heart is changed in such a way, God will have no problem giving you the desires of your heart (Psalm 37:4).

So as we embark on 2015, we dispense with the traditional Happy New Year, and instead say, "Happy New You!" When you become the best you you can be by the power of God, you will surely have the best year you've ever had!



## Joy for the Spirit

"A merry heart does good, like medicine" - Proverbs 17:22

### TEMPTATION AND SIN

(An Autobiography in 5 Short Chapters by Porsche Nelson)

Chapter 1. I walk down the street and there's a deep hole in the sidewalk, I fall in, I am lost, I am helpless, It isn't my fault, It takes me forever to find my way out.

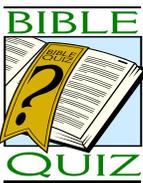
Chapter 2. I walk down the same street and there's a deep hole in the sidewalk, I pretend I don't see it. I fall in again, I can't believe that I'm in the same place but it isn't my fault. It takes a long time to get out.

Chapter 3. I walk down the same street there's a deep hole in the sidewalk, I see that it is there, I still fall in, it's a habit, my eyes are open, I know it's my fault. I get out immediately.

Chapter 4. I walk down the same street there's a deep hole in the sidewalk, I walk around it.

Chapter 5. I walk down another street.

*Simple analogy. Sometimes, we tend to make things so deep. Temptation and sin is not that deep. We get tempted and we either give in to it or don't. And as this story goes, we can continue to make excuses as to why or we can simply take another route. It really isn't that deep! Really.*



**GOD'S HUMBLE SERVANTS.** Jesus came down from heaven to do the will of His Father and save us from our sins. The Bible says He humbled Himself. As people of God, Jesus is our example. We always need to be in a position to serve, in humility. This issue presents a quiz on how much you know about God's humble servants in the Bible. And of course, if you're up for the challenge, Bible scholars, where can the Scripture be found? ☺

- In what city was Paul stoned and believed to be dead?
  - Derbe
  - Lystra
  - Iconium
  - Antioch
- Who agreed to be circumcised because of the Jews, although his father was Greek?
  - Paul
  - Barnabas
  - Timothy
  - Mark
- Who convinced the apostles that Saul was a follower of Christ?
  - Silas
  - Barnabas
  - Mark
  - Peter
- Who went to Elisha to be healed of leprosy, at the suggestion of his wife's servant?
  - Potiphar
  - Gehazi
  - Naaman
  - Ahab
- Who requested of a king that he be allowed to return to Judah to rebuild it?
  - David
  - Joseph
  - Ezra
  - Nehemiah
- What did Abraham send his oldest servant to bring back?
  - a report on their enemies
  - fruit from Canaan
  - a bride for Isaac
  - seed for his fields
- Who did God call to lead His people out of bondage?
  - Abraham
  - Isaac
  - Jacob
  - Moses
- Of whom did God say He would put His words in his mouth?
  - Jeremiah
  - Joshua
  - Jethro
  - no one
- Who was committed by his mother to serve in the temple, as a child?
  - David
  - Samuel
  - Elisha
  - Aaron
- What helper of widows did Peter restore to life after she had died?
  - Saphira
  - Priscilla
  - Dorcas
  - Martha

(Answers on next page)



**SELAH.**

Pause and calmly think about these.

# REFLECTION

...As a man thinketh, so is He.



**Christmas is the manifestation of God in our lives.**

God's favor does not leave us simply because we are in an unfavorable place.

*Miracles happen every time God opens His mouth and someone listens. We don't have to come up with the vision, we just have to write it. God gives it to us.*

Rebellion and unbelief can extend your journey from 11 days to 40 years.

**Even if it's not time to speak it, you can always believe it.**

It is not up to people to see your journey when you are the one traveling it.

TRUE GRATITUDE IS REVEALED IN GENEROSITY.

WE MAY NOT BE QUALIFIED BUT BECAUSE GOD IS WITH US, WE ARE EQUIPPED.

**We suffer like Jesus when we are persecuted, not when we are sick.**

You don't need to know the stone IS rolled away, you just need to know the stone WILL BE rolled away when you get there.

**FAITH DOESN'T WAIT FOR RESULTS, FAITH PRODUCES THEM.**

Provision is released where thankfulness takes place.



**GRACE AND PEACE, READERS!**



Is this your newsletter? If not, would you like your own copy? Or maybe you know someone who might want one? Whatever the case, let us know. We'd love to include you in our mailing. And it's FREE! To sign up, visit [www.ongoodground.org](http://www.ongoodground.org) or email us at [newsletter@ongoodground.org](mailto:newsletter@ongoodground.org). You'll be glad you did, and so will we!

## The Prayer of Salvation

God, I come to You in the name of Jesus. You said that all have fallen short of the glory of God. You sent Your Son that I would be saved. Forgive me of my sins, Lord. I confess with my mouth and believe in my heart that Jesus died for me and You raised Him from the dead. I accept Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior and believe that I have been born again. Thank You for loving me, for forgiving me and coming into my heart. In Jesus name, I pray. Amen.

## ...Finally First!

This is the year it will finally happen. After years of wanting to do it and of testifying that you would do it, this time it's for real. This is the year that people, goals, material things and personal pursuits take a back seat. After all this time, this is the year that God truly becomes your top priority. This year, 2015, is the year God finally comes in first.

In the race that is our lives there have been too many times, if we're honest, that God was not our top priority. Oh, we know the Sunday school answers, all right: "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33). And, "You shall have no other gods before Me" (Exodus 20:3). And of course, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength" (Mark 12:30). But we haven't truly lived this way.

There always seem to be people, things, issues or desires clamoring for our attention and pulling us away from God. Our families, the job, recreational activities and hobbies, relationship problems and even church. You read that last one right. There are times when we get so immersed in church activities, having to be there every time the church doors open, that our private, quality time with God becomes a casualty. Here it is plain: anything or anyone that we put an excessive amount of time into becomes enthroned in our lives. And the only person Who is supposed to be on the throne is God.

"Oh, you're being too technical! I have a lot going on right now. God understands my current situation. He knows my heart." Well, of course God knows and understands. He knows and understands everything. He knows exactly when we put other people or things before Him and He also understands that such conduct is contrary to His commandments. We're the ones who try to gloss over it. We're the ones who race from one activity to another, making sure we take care of this or that, and give God the leftover time. Let's face it, the things we make sure we take the time to do are the things we value the most. Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also" (Matthew 6:21), and He said we should lay up our treasure in heaven. For too long, we have known that God should have first place in our lives, but we haven't lived that way.

Well, no more. This is the year that changes. This is the year that our God finally comes in first. How will it happen? First thing in the morning, the first person you speak to is God. "Good morning, Lord! Thank You for watching over me last night and waking me up this morning!" The first thing you read is Scripture – not the paper, not yesterday's mail. Before you eat your food, you pray first. Before you make that decision, you consult with Jesus. After you return from that errand, you give God glory for keeping you and prospering your journey. Throughout your day, you practice the presence of God, speaking to Him and bringing Him into your activities. Before you nod off to sleep, you thank God first for blessing you throughout the day.

Gone are the days when the Holy Spirit quietly beckons you to read or pray and you tell Him you will – after your show goes off or just as soon as you send that email or text message. Show the Lord that He truly is your priority. Make Him first, put Him first, keep Him first. On the calendar of your life, let 2015 stand out as the pivotal year in your walk with the Lord. Let it stand out from all the years before it and shape all the years to come. After many a false start, let this be the year that God actually and truly triumphs over all you've got going on. Let this be the year that God finally comes in first!



Intercessory prayer at the church is held **Mondays at 7pm**. We believe, as we have been taught, that prayers can do what God can do. We want you to know that we are praying for you. If you have any specific prayer requests for yourself or a loved one, feel free to email us at [prayer@ongoodground.org](mailto:prayer@ongoodground.org), visit the web at [www.ongoodground.org](http://www.ongoodground.org) or call us at (609) 723-3425.



### A MOMENT WITH GOD

*It's me again, Lord!*

**BIBLE**

  
**QUIZ**

*Answer Key*

10c Dorcas Acts 9:36-42  
9b 1 Samuel 1:11, 20, 24-28  
8a Jeremiah 1:9  
7d Exodus 3:1-10  
6c Genesis 24:1-4  
5d Nehemiah 2:5  
4c 2 Kings 5:1-9  
3b Acts 9:26-27  
2c Acts 16:1-3  
1b Acts 14:8, 19



**ANGER** MAKES YOU **SMALLER**

while

**FORGIVENESS**

FORCES YOU TO **GROW BEYOND**

WHAT YOU ARE



PO Box 285  
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It's 2015... have you shared the Good News yet?

*"But the ones that fell on good ground are those who, having heard the word with a noble and good heart, keep it and bear fruit with patience." - Luke 8:15*



A FREE Christian Newsletter distributed by  
*Minister Jeffery B. Farnell*  
*Wife Evelyn Farnell*  
By inspiration of The Holy Ghost.

*We'd Love To Hear From You*  
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*May the Lord God bless you in astonishing ways!*  
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## LOVE THE UNLOVABLE



We all have them. People who we don't get along with or just don't like. They can be people near or far – a childhood friend, a neighbor, a relative, a sibling or even a fellow church member. For some reason, things just don't click between you and that person, try as you might. You know it's not God's will for you to live this way, but you haven't been able to cast that mountain of discord and bitterness into the sea. Well, hear the heart of God again, "For God so loved the world..." (John 3:16). You get that? God loves the world. He loves even the unlovable and desires that all men will come to repentance and into a living relationship with Him (2 Peter 3:9). So when it comes to those unlovable people in our lives, let's purpose to say this aloud: "God loves them, so I love them too." Speak it out loud, understanding that your body follows your mouth. Allow the Spirit of God to move you with compassion toward that person and embrace them in the love of God. This is a God thing. We can't do it; our failed attempts testify against us. This is a work for God, but it starts with us. So say it again like you mean it: "God loves them, so I love them too!" And praise the God of heaven that love never fails (1 Corinthians 13:8). 