

Keeping in Contact

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Relying on God...the Bible says...

“The Lord also will be a stronghold for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble...” Psalms 9:9

“The Lord is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.” Psalms 18:2

“Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him, and He will do it.” Psalms 37:5

“Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you; He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.” Psalms 55:22

May Birthdays

2 Peggy Woodruff 15 Kena Brown 22 Ana Munayco

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.
Sunday.....10:45 a.m.
Sunday.....6:00 p.m.
Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Preacher:
Mike McKnight

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“Reminders...”

His Grace Reaches Me

By Steve Higginbotham

Christians sometimes sell the grace of God short. While we intellectually know that grace is undeserved, we sometimes tend to limit God’s grace to the more “deserving sinner.” You know, the guy who is trying to do right but makes “ordinary” mistakes. But that’s our problem. There’s no such thing as a deserving sinner.

The guy who walks too close to the mudhole and gets a little mud on the sides of his shoes is just as defiled and unfit for heaven as the guy who wallowed in the mudhole. Yet we sometimes seem to forget this truth. Friends, God’s grace isn’t for those who have most things under control but just need a little extra help. Rather His grace is for the helpless, and that includes all men whether they have just a little mud on their shoes or are covered from head to toe.

Maybe we need to be reminded of what we sing,

*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that Thy blood was shed for me,
And that Thou bidd’st me come to Thee,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

*Just as I am, and waiting not,
To rid my soul of one dark blot;
To Thee whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

Instead of limiting God’s grace, let’s lift our voices and give thanks that God’s grace reaches even me!

Five Fingers of Prayer

By Glen Hitchcock

The fingers on our hands can help us remember who to pray for:

1. Our thumb is nearest to you. Begin our prayers by praying for those closest to us. They are the easiest to remember. To pray for our loved ones is a 'sweet duty.

2. The next finger is the pointing finger. Pray for those who teach, instruct, and heal. This includes teachers, doctors, ministers, and our elders. They need wisdom in pointing others in the right direction. Keep them in our prayers.

3. The next finger is the tallest finger. It reminds us of our secular leaders. Pray for our president and congress, leaders in business and industry, and administrators. These people shape our nation and guide public opinion.

4. The fourth finger is our ring finger. Surprising to many is the fact that this is our weakest finger; as any piano teacher will explain, it should remind us to pray for those who are weak, in trouble, or in pain. They need your prayers day and night. We cannot pray too much for them.

5. Last comes our little finger; the smallest finger of all. This is where we should place ourselves in relation to God and others. As the Bible says, 'The least shall be the greatest among you.' Our pinkie should remind you to pray for ourselves.

By the time we have prayed for the other four groups, our own needs will be put into proper perspective and we will be able to pray for ourselves more effectively. Should we find it hard to get to sleep tonight, just remember the homeless family who has no bed to lie in.

Advocate, Intercessor, Mediator

By Jason Hart

It comforts Christians to know that Jesus is ready to make intercession for us when we sin. 1 John 1:9 reads, *"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* For the Christian, Jesus is the 'Voice' for the good of mankind. He serves in three roles to Christians: He is 1) an advocate; 2) an intercessor; and 3) a mediator.

Imagine a general practitioner-maybe your family doctor. He has educated himself in the general practice of medicine. However, he is not in a position to perform major surgical procedures or to diagnose some major illnesses without a specialist's guidance. For example, if you have a severe heart problem, he would refer you to a cardiologist. He would speak on your behalf to the specialist, pleading the symptoms of your problems, and serve as an impartial 'go between' to see that your heart-care is fully provided. Therefore, he would act as an advocate of your problem, an intercessor for your symptoms, and a mediator for your care. Jesus serves in exactly the same ways.

He is our advocate. He advocates to our Father our sinful condition and chooses to help us commit our change before God. 1 John 2:1 reads, *"And if any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous."*

He is our intercessor. He intercedes on our behalf, to plead our cause to God whom we have offended. Our symptoms are laid on the table before God, and mercy is pleaded on the condition of repentance. Romans 8:34 says, *"It is Christ Jesus that died, yea rather, that was raised from the dead, who is at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us."* Hebrews 7:25 reads: *"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them."*

Jesus is our mediator. He is actually our only mediator. He is the 'go between' that attempts to bring reconciliation to the relationship between and God and men. 1 Timothy 2:5 says, *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*

If we will let Him, He will be our **advocate, intercessor, and mediator.** He wants us to come out of our sins and be with Him forever.