

HOUSE to HOUSE
HEART to HEART

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House to House Heart to Heart

VOLUME 30 NUMBER 12



Standing Knee Deep in a River of Blessings

Allen Webster

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on youtube



“*Standing Knee Deep in a River* (Dying of Thirst)” is a classic Kathy Mattea song, first made popular in 1992 and still often replayed on YouTube.

It is a moving song of a person thinking back over all the friends with whom she had lost touch, the sweethearts who had gone separate ways, and other lonely people she passed each day, who could be friends if she just reached out to them.

Most Americans are standing parched, knee deep in a river of blessings, but they seem to be dying of the thirst of discontent. The English word *content* means “desiring no more than what one has” The Greek word (*arkeo*) means “to be satisfied.” Thus one who is content is satisfied with what he has and has no desire for more. How many people do you know like that? What, then, are the springs from which the river of contentment flows?

SPRING 1: CONTENTMENT COMES THROUGH THE FEAR OF GOD

Solomon wrote, “The fear of the Lord leads to life, and he who has it will abide in satisfaction; he will not be visited with evil” (Proverbs 19:23).

Multi-millionaire William Randolph Hearst invested a fortune in collecting art treasures from around the world. One day Hearst read a description of a valuable art item and then sent his agent abroad to find it. After months of searching, the agent reported that he had finally found the treasure. To the surprise of Hearst, the priceless masterpiece was stored in none other than his own warehouse! This wealthy man had been searching all over the world for a treasure he already possessed. Had he read the catalog of his treasures, he would have saved himself a lot of time and money. As believers we may be like that. We look for contentment in the world, though we will never find it there. Yet Christ has already given it to us. The fear of God leads us to seek out God’s way, which in turn helps us find contentment.

SPRING 2: CONTENTMENT COMES THROUGH STRONG DESIRE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

Jesus said, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6). Athletes are said to be hungry when they have a strong

competitive spirit. An aspiring businessman is said to be hungry when he is willing to work extra hard and do whatever it takes to be successful. Some are hungry for prestige, riches, honor, fame, or political office. These are not the things for which we should hunger (Colossians 3:2). God wants us to be hungry for righteousness (1 Peter 2:2; Hebrews 5:12–14). In so doing, He makes a promise to “fill” us. The word means to be *satisfied with food*; originally, it described feeding animals with hay. What is a better picture of contentment than a cow having eaten to the full and then standing in the shade chewing her cud?

SPRING 3: CONTENTMENT COMES THROUGH TRUST IN GOD’S PRESENCE

Only God has the ability to provide lasting satisfaction (Psalm 107:8–9). He promises to give that which truly satisfies: “the sure mercies of David” (i.e., the blessings promised through the coming Messiah) (Isaiah 55:1–3). David came to see himself as a sheep in God’s pasture, and there he found deep contentment. He wrote, “He makes me to lie down in green pastures” (Psalm 23:2). What was it that Paul had in mind when he made

the famous statement, “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”? (Philippians 4:13). He was facing the challenge of contentment (4:11–12). For someone as ambitious as Paul, it doubtless was difficult for him to cool his heels in prison without frustration bubbling over. The sentence “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me” is actually saying, “I can do all things; I really can!”

SPRING 4: CONTENTMENT COMES THROUGH TRUST IN GOD’S PROMISES

Paul’s contentment sprang from his confidence in “even as.” He told a pagan ship crew, “Therefore take heart, men, for I believe God that it will be just as it was told me” (Acts 27:25). He told the young preacher, “For I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day” (2 Timothy 1:12).

The knowledge that God always keeps His promises will grant us peace in the midst of any difficulty.

- When we are persecuted, we can trust this promise: “And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand. My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand” (John 10:28–29).
- When tired and burdened, we can trust this promise: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” (Matthew 11:28).
- When life is in chaos, we can trust the promise of “the peace of God, which

surpasses all understanding” (Philippians 4:7).

- When tempted, we can trust this promise: “For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted” (Hebrews 2:18).
- When we are facing sickness, disease, injury, and aging, we can trust Him to “transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself” (Philippians 3:21).
- When we fear that we may be lost, we can pillow our heads upon this wonderful truth: “Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them” (Hebrews 7:25).

SPRING 5: CONTENTMENT COMES THROUGH A RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST

Jesus is the water of life (John 7:37) who offers an overflowing life to His followers (John 10:10). He promises to “give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts” (Revelation 21:6). To start this relationship with Christ, one must pick up a Bible and begin to study His life and teachings (Romans 10:17). This will produce faith in an honest and good heart (Luke 8:15; Hebrews 11:6). Faith leads one to repentance, confession of Christ, and baptism for remission of sins (Acts 2:38; 8:37; 22:16). Then one can drink deeply from the springs of Christian contentment as he/she faithfully follows the Prince of Peace (Revelation 2:10). Aren’t you a little thirsty?



Are You Down in the Pit(s)?

“So it came to pass, when Joseph had come to his brothers, that they stripped Joseph of his tunic, the tunic of many colors that was on him. Then they took him and cast him into a pit. And the pit was empty; there was not water in it” (Genesis 37:23–24).

Have you ever felt like Joseph must have felt on this occasion? Have you felt forsaken by those who loved you or had something precious to you taken away (like his freedom and his coat)? Their original thought was to kill him, but eventually they chose to sell him to Ishmaelite traders. They thought they were through with Joseph, but God intervened.

Trials in life make us bitter or better. Problems can either be opportunities to strive to do the right thing, or they can be obstacles that cause us to shrink back and not do what we can to fix the problem.

A friend once called me with a personal problem. His words were, “I am about at the end of my rope; I do not know where to turn.” He was down in the pits, but instead of withdrawing and giving up, he asked for help. He surrounded himself with resources (his friends) who could give him counsel and insight into how he could get out of the pit. Today he is much

better because he allowed the bumps in his road to lift him up to a higher plane of living.

Joseph no longer had his family, but he had the greatest friend a man ever had—his God (Romans 8:31). His days of despair were not over. Once more, he was in a pit—this time a prison—because he maintained his integrity and his accountability to God. “How then can I do this great wickedness, and sin against God?” (Genesis 39:9). Even in prison, God was watching over him and blessed him (Genesis 39:21–23). In the end, God made Joseph the second in command of the pagan nation of Egypt. Joseph was reunited with his people, and ultimately (providentially) his family became the nation of Israel that inherited the promised land.

God has promised us that He will not forsake us (Hebrews 13:5–6). Even when we must travel through the valley of death, He has promised to stay with us (Psalm 23:4). May we look for the help He makes available to us, and may we strive to use the problems of life as stepping-stones to greater service and as opportunities to grow and to become better, stronger children of God. —Don Williams

Life Observations for Little Ones

MARC (age 4) was carefully observing a young couple kissing in a restaurant. Without taking his eyes off them, he asked his dad, “Why is he whispering in her mouth?”

JAMES (age 4) was listening to a Bible story: “The man named Lot was warned to take his wife and flee out of the city, but his wife looked back and she was turned to a pillar of salt.” James asked, “What happened to the flea?”

TAMMY (age 4) and her mother met an elderly, wrinkled woman her mom knew. Tammy looked at her for a while and then asked, “Why doesn’t your skin fit your face?”



Yes, Worship Is Healthy

A national study soon to be published says that worshiping God is healthy. The survey, “Religious Involvement and US Adult Mortality,” says weekly churchgoers will live to the age of 82, and those who attend more than once a week will live to the age of 83. On the other hand, non-churchgoers will live an average of 75 years.

Worship is good for us, but more important, it pleases God. God desires our worship and tells how to worship Him acceptably in Scripture (John 4:23–24). Worshiping God is the right thing to do. It is also the healthy thing to do. We will save you a seat for Sunday.

—Charles Roney

“Worship God!”

REVELATION 19:10

God’s Plan for Saving Man

Divine Love: John 3:16

God’s Grace: Ephesians 2:8

Christ’s Blood: Romans 5:9

Holy Spirit’s Word: 1 Corinthians 2:12–13

Sinner’s Faith: Acts 16:31

Sinner’s Repentance: Luke 13:3

Sinner’s Confession: Romans 10:10

Sinner’s Baptism: Acts 22:16

Christian’s Love: Matthew 22:37

Christian’s Work: James 2:24

Christian’s Hope: Romans 8:24

Christian’s Endurance: Revelation 2:10

Watch
on youtube



Imagination vs. Sense of Humor

Imagination was given to man to compensate him for what he isn't and a sense of humor to console him for what he is.

Terms of Endearment

The most common terms of endearment are the following:

- Honey: 48 percent
- Baby: 44 percent
- Sweetheart: 41 percent
- Dear: 39 percent
- Lover: 32 percent
- Darling: 31 percent
- Sugar: 24 percent
- Angel: 20 percent
- Pumpkin: 13 percent
- Beautiful: 6 percent

"His lips are lilies, dripping liquid myrrh."

SONG OF SOLOMON 5:13

Cold Cookies

An old man was lying on his deathbed. He had only hours to live when he suddenly smelled chocolate chip cookies. He loved chocolate chip cookies more than anything in the world.

With his last bit of energy he pulled himself out of bed, struggled across the floor to the stairs, and headed down the stairs into the kitchen. There his wife was baking those aromatic cookies.

As he reached for one, SMACK! He felt a slap across the back of his hand. His wife scolded, "Leave those alone; they are for the funeral!" —Earliest known source: Tamara Norden, Shorewood, WI, on Prairie Home Companion Website, Fifth Annual Joke Show (4-1-2000).



A Mother Is...

Artist: She beautifies the home and colors endless coloring book pictures.

Beautician: She clips, cuts, and curls a little beauty's hair.

Chauffeur: She delivers one child to a piano lesson, picks up another after a ball game, and hurries to her husband's plane.

Dietician: She plans endless menus and makes vegetables tasty.

Engineer: She keeps the home's wheels well-oiled and running efficiently.

Fashion designer: She alters hand-me-downs and creates originals.

Guardian: She guards the virtue of her family unit.

Housekeeper: She straightens and cleans and wipes up spills.

Information bureau: She answers thousands of youthful questions, ranging from "Do caterpillars yawn?" to "Where are my socks?"

Judge: She is called upon to settle the daily disputes that erupt wherever two or more children congregate.

Keeper at home: She functions masterfully in her unique role (Titus 2:5).

Laundry worker: She endlessly washes, dries, folds, and puts away clothes.

Musician: She sings lullabies to coax droopy eyes to sleep.

Nurse: She treats a variety of ills, from scraped knees to broken hearts.

Organizer: She arranges birthday parties, shopping expenditures, ball games, and work projects.

Pharmacist: She dispenses Band-Aids, children's Tylenol, and iodine.

Queen of the home: She is the center around which the family revolves.

Recreation director: She plans activities for school, scouts, church groups, and home.

Seamstress: She patches and mends the inevitable holes, rips, and tears.

Teacher: She instructs little minds in the first lessons of life.

Upholsterer: She re-covers or refinishes old furniture to make it last a little longer.

Vocational counselor: She offers advice about possible future occupations.

Waitress: She graciously serves over a thousand meals a year.

X-Ray technician: She sees right through excuses, evasions, and cover-ups to get to the truth underneath.

Yard worker: She plants, prunes, and trims.

Zoo keeper: She feeds the pets when the children forget their solemn promise to take care of that job.

"Her children rise up and call her blessed."

PROVERBS 31:28

Just for Fun Word Search: Rejoice!

Use the words in blue to complete the puzzle.

Rejoice in the Lord **always**. Again I will **say**, rejoice! Let your **gentleness** be known to all men. The **Lord** is at hand. Be **anxious** for nothing, but in everything by **prayer** and **supplication**, with **thanksgiving**, let your **requests** be made known to **God**; and the **peace** of God, which **surpasses** all understanding, will **guard** your **hearts** and **minds** through **Christ Jesus**."

— PHILIPPIANS 4:4-7

R	G	J	K	R	I	P	F	J	S	R	E	R	A	P
S	E	E	E	E	O	F	S	Z	C	R	N	Y	R	
T	H	J	A	S	A	Q	E	Y	A	T	X	Y	D	A
R	X	Z	O	L	U	N	U	E	P	I	K	R	M	Y
A	I	T	W	I	E	S	P	E	O	Y	A	F	S	E
E	V	A	S	L	C	G	U	U	S	U	A	D	H	R
H	Y	T	T	I	O	E	S	F	G	T	N	Y	Y	P
S	K	N	M	M	R	R	K	M	W	I	S	W	A	E
Z	E	I	M	M	H	H	D	G	M	L	J	U	S	W
G	S	U	P	P	L	I	C	A	T	I	O	N	T	K
G	N	I	V	I	G	S	K	N	A	H	T	G	O	D
Y	C	Z	C	Q	S	U	R	P	A	S	S	E	S	P



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Must We Make Confession?



Jesus declared, “Whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven (Matthew 10:32). In the biblical sense, to confess Christ means to profess faith in Him and acknowledge His authority.

Jesus once asked the disciples who men said He was. They explained that some thought Him to be John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah, or another prophet risen from the dead. Jesus said, “But who do you say that I am? Simon Peter answered and said, ‘You are the Christ, the Son of the living God’” (Matthew 16:15–16). By his response, Peter confessed Christ.

Paul wrote, “If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the

dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation” (Romans 10:9–10). “Confession is made unto salvation”; so it should not be minimized. Paul connected heartfelt belief with open confession by the mouth.

Confession of Christ is not, however, merely repeating a formula. It is the outward expression of faith felt in the heart. By confession, we express our acceptance of His authority in every area of our lives, and we give our personal pledge of allegiance to Him and His cause.

The Ethiopian treasurer of Queen Candace did not understand Isaiah’s prophetic portrait of Christ, so Philip, “beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him”

(Acts 8:35). As they went on their way, they came to “some water. And the eunuch said, ‘See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?’ Then Philip said, ‘If you believe with all your heart, you may.’ And he answered and said, ‘I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God’” (8:36–37). Based on that confession, Philip baptized him into Christ (8:38).

Because of His sacrifice for us, the Father has exalted Christ “that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow . . . that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father” (Philippians 2:10–11). It is said, “The confession is the birthplace of the unselfish element in religion.” Have you unreservedly, unselfishly confessed Christ? —Bob Prichard

Cut out this section and mail it to the address on the front.

Bible Quiz

VOLUME 30:12

Send us your answers to receive a free Bible bookmark. We will grade and return your questions and enclose the bookmark “Title” as a way of saying thanks for spending time in the Word (quantities may be limited).

Name: _____
Address: _____
City/State: _____
Phone: _____

Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

Answers to Previous Quizzes

V. 30:10 *One Dozen Scriptures for Parents:* 1. Heritage, reward (Psalm 127:3); 2. Wrath, admonition (Ephesians 6:4); 3. Children, refuge (Proverbs 14:26); 4. Train, depart (Proverbs 22:6); 5. Lord, house (Psalm 127:1); 6. Teach, diligently, talk (Deuteronomy 6:7); 7. Sows (Galatians 6:7); 8. Wise, companion (Proverbs 13:20); 9. Sons, daughters (Psalm 144:12); 10. Chasten (Proverbs 19:18); 11. Father, mother (Proverbs 1:8); 12. Good (Ephesians 6:8).

V. 30:11 *Getting to Know the Unknown God:* 1. Athens (Acts 17:16); 2. Idols (Acts 17:16); 3. Synagogue; marketplace (Acts 17:17); 4. Jesus; resurrection (Acts 17:18); 5. New thing (Acts 17:21); 6. Very religious (Acts 17:22); 7. THE UNKNOWN GOD (Acts 17:23); 8. World; everything (Acts 17:24); 9. Temples (Acts 17:24); 10. Men’s hands (Acts 17:25); 11. One blood (Acts 17:26); 12. Times; boundaries (Acts 17:26); 13. Not far (Acts 17:27); 14. His offspring (Acts 17:28); 15. Divine (Acts 17:29); 16. Art and man’s (Acts 17:29); 17. All men everywhere (Acts 17:30); 18. Righteousness (Acts 17:31); 19. Raising; dead (Acts 17:31); 20. Mocked; hear (Acts 17:32).

One Dozen Scriptures for Women

Directions: Without opening your Bible, fill in all the missing words and verse references you can. When you do all you can from memory, use these Scriptures to complete the exercise: Proverbs 11:16; 12:4; 14:1; 22:6; 31:10; 31:30; Mark 14:8; Luke 10:42; 1 Timothy 2:11; 2:9; Titus 2:4; 1 Peter 3:3–4 (not in order). Finally, memorize the verses. Questions are taken from the New King James Version.

1. **Valuable:** “Who can find a _____ wife? For her worth is far above _____.”
2. **Useful:** “She has done what she _____. She has come beforehand to anoint My body for burial.”
3. **Spiritual:** “Charm is deceitful and _____ is passing, But a woman who _____ the Lord, she shall be praised.”
4. **Teacher:** “_____ up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not _____ from it.”
5. **Loving:** “. . . that they admonish the young women to _____ their husbands, to love their children. . . .”
6. **Gracious:** “A _____ woman retains honor, But ruthless men retain riches.”
7. **Modest:** “In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in _____ with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing.”
8. **Appreciated:** “An excellent wife is the _____ of her _____. But she who causes shame is like rottenness in his bones.”
9. **Discerning:** “But one thing is _____, and Mary has chosen that _____ part, which will not be taken away from her.”
10. **Submissive:** “Let a woman learn in _____ with all submission.”
11. **Well-dressed:** “Do not let your _____ be merely outward—arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—rather let it be the _____ person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and _____ spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God.”
12. **Constructive:** “The wise woman _____ her house, But the foolish pulls it down with her hands.”

INDESTRUCTIBLE BOOK

Many men have tried to destroy the Bible. In A.D. 303, the Roman Emperor Diocletian issued an edict to destroy Christians and their Bibles. Over a burned Bible, he built a monument on which he wrote these words, *Extincto momene Christianorum* (meaning “the name Christian is extinguished”). Twenty years later, Diocletian was dead, and the new Emperor Constantine commissioned fifty copies of the Bible to be prepared at government expense.

In 1776, the French philosopher Voltaire said, “One hundred years from my day, there will not be a Bible in the earth except one that is looked upon by some antique seeker.” One hundred years from the day of Voltaire’s prediction, the first edition of his works sold for eleven cents in Paris, but the British government paid Russia half a million dollars for an ancient Bible manuscript.

It truly is interesting to read what men have tried to do with God’s Word, which shall stand forever. “Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away” (Matthew 24:35). —Author Unknown

“The word of the LORD endures forever; Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.”

1 PETER 1:25

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Recommended Resource



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If you knew for sure that the religious path you are on would not get you to heaven, would you change? If there was the possibility of a doubt, would you investigate? Why not request a personal Bible study today?

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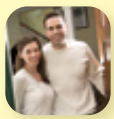
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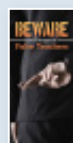
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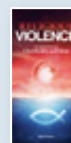
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☐ Life: Good to the Last Drop



☐ Why Did Jesus Come to Earth?



☐ Religious Violence

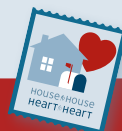


☐ How to Prepare for the End of the World



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VOLUME 30:12



Chapter to Chapter DEUTERONOMY

This chart is part of a memory system for learning the key people, events, topics, and verses of all 929 Old Testament chapters.

COMING SOON

What Are the Chances?

There are more than three hundred prophecies from the Old Testament fulfilled in the life of Jesus of Nazareth. The prophecies were made centuries before He was born and contain startling details (e.g., the name of the city of His birth, how He would die). In the book *Science Speaks*, Peter Stoner wrote of the improbability that only eight of these prophecies could be fulfilled accidentally in the life of Jesus. The odds here are 1 in 10 to the 17th power, or 100,000,000,000,000,000 to 1. Stoner illustrates this impossible number by suggesting that if one covers the state of Texas with that many silver dollars, the entire state would be covered in coins two feet deep. If you mark one of the coins, mix the coins thoroughly, and then blindfold a man and tell him to pick up the marked coin on the first try, that would be the same probability of just eight of the messianic prophecies coming true by coincidence.

—Peter Stoner, *Science Speaks* (7963), p. 175.

"For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me."

JOHN 5:46



Judgment Day *EXCUSES* That Won't Work

We can imagine that on “the judgment of the great day” (Jude 1:6), there will be many excuses. Let’s consider some.

“But, Lord, what about all of the good that I have done?” This sounds like Matthew 7:22: “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not . . . done many wonders in Your name?’” But what will Jesus say? “I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!” (7:23). What was their shortcoming? They failed to do the Father’s will (7:21). The Lord wants us to be “zealous for good works” (Titus 2:14), but all the good works in the world cannot cover sin.

“But, Lord, I was just doing what other folks were doing.” Christ taught that this course of action leads to destruction: “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it” (Matthew 7:13). Remember, something is not right in God’s sight just because a lot of people are doing it.

“But, Lord, I was always so busy with work and everything that I didn’t have time for church.” A more truthful statement is that one does not make time. Jesus warned: “And the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the desires for other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful” (Mark 4:19).

“Lord, I am sorry for the way that I lived. If I had a chance to do it again, I would do better.” No one gets a second chance. “It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). Our life on earth is a one-shot deal (Titus 2:12).

Let us all be certain that we are prepared for that day, so we won’t need any excuses.

—Roger Campbell

“Prepare to meet your God, O Israel!”

AMOS 4:12



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