

Somebody Up There Loves You



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Chapter I

Somebody Up There Loves You

The day you accept Jesus into your heart is a very special day to God. He has been waiting a long time for the day when you would turn to Him once and for all, and declare Jesus, Lord of your life! The Bible says in Luke 15:10 that there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents! That's right, God has been waiting for this day. God has been waiting for you. The Bible confirms very clearly that God **WAITS** for people who don't know Him, to repent and to be born again. The first blessing God has for you (and the one blessing that leads to having all of God's blessings upon you) is that God can now call you "**HIS OWN.**" Yes, friend — God has been waiting for you for a long time. Yes — somebody up there loves you, and that somebody is God.

The very fact that you accepted Jesus **PROVES** that God has been waiting for you and watching you for a long time now.

“No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him.”

John 6:44

“No one can say “Jesus is Lord” except by the Holy Spirit.”

I Corinthians 12:3

This is not only a special day for God, but for you as well. There are so many things that have happened today! There is so much about you that is different. There is so much that is new. There is so much that will never be the same; your past simply does not exist any longer. You have been given a **NEW LIFE** by God Almighty.

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a **NEW CREATURE**: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” II Corinthians 5:17*

As of today, you may now consider yourself **“IN CHRIST.”** What the Bible is saying here is that when a person accepts Jesus into his heart, that person actually becomes a new species of being. Something that never existed before. Someone totally new and unique. You have just

had a miracle happen to you. A miracle that you will be thankful for for the rest of your life.

Today, you have had a new nature flood your soul. The very nature of God is now your nature. The very life of God has exploded inside you giving you strengths, talents, capabilities, wisdom, knowledge, health, and prosperity that you have never thought possible. This day you have become a **CHILD OF ALMIGHTY GOD!**

*“Yet to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God – children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or of a husband’s will, but **BORN OF GOD.**” John 1:12, 13*

“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God.” I John 3:1

Being born again is exactly what it says. You have actually been born a second time. Spiritually, you have been recreated! On the outside you may look the same, but on the inside everything is brand new.

Now think for just a minute about newborn babies. They are small and defenseless little people who don't know very much about anything. Every day is full of new lessons for a young child. That child depends on its parents for everything. Eventually, through learning from the way mom and dad do things, the child will learn to take care of itself and later on, get married and wind up caring for new babies.

“Unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.” John 3:3

Just like the newborn child, there are so many things you have to learn. You have such a future to look forward to. As you learn and grow, you will become stronger in the things of the spirit. You see, all your life you have been trained to live in a physical world. You have dealt with situations on a physical level. You have learned to make decisions in the physical realm. And you have always depended on human wisdom and logic (be it your own or someone else's advice) to cope with every circumstance.

The reason for this is because you were spiritually dead. The Bible says that God is the

source of all life. In the physical world, death is thought of as the body ceasing all functions. But spiritual death is actually separation from God. Here's a quick lesson about the fall of man which you can read about in Genesis.

When God created Adam, Adam had every capacity to walk, talk with, and hear God. They had a relationship. They were friends. They knew each other. Adam was spiritually alive. He talked with God through his spirit.

“Because those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God.”

Romans 8:14

Adam was not spiritually dead. He was completely alive: spirit, soul, and body. He was led by his spirit. God communicated with him through his spirit. Adam lived in God's realm. Adam's soul source of information was God Almighty!

When Adam disobeyed God in the garden, something very serious happened. Satan came to tempt Adam and succeeded. Romans 6:16 tells us that when we obey someone, we become their slaves. When Adam obeyed Satan in the garden,

he gave up his god-like nature (or spirit) and took on Satan's nature. By being separated from God, Adam was no longer spiritually alive. He could not communicate with God anymore.

The Bible tells us in John 4:24 that God is spirit. God is actually a spirit being. This does not make Him any less real than physical beings. Quite the contrary, it makes Him even "more real" or tangible.

"The builder of the house has greater honor than the house itself. For every house is built by someone, but God is the builder of everything."

Hebrews 3:13, 14

God, who is a spirit being, created this physical realm. The spirit **PRODUCED** the physical. You must never doubt the reality of the spiritual realm.

When Adam fell by disobeying God, he lost all contact with God. He was spiritually dead. He had no way of hearing God anymore. Now Adam was just an empty soul and body. He became dark inside and open territory for the enemy. He could

no longer think like God. He could no longer find out what to do from God. Adam fell from God's realm of the spirit to his own physical realm. No longer was he enlightened through his spirit. Now Adam had only his physical senses to learn and take in information. His own logic and reason became the doors of his mind. Anything above his ability was now said to be simply impossible. Anything beyond his understanding was a mystery.

Sadly enough, this is the state into which the entire human race is born: spiritual death — unable to communicate with God.

Adam, in his state of spiritual death (separated from God), fathered the entire human race. Every person who was born after Adam is just like him, spiritually dead, without any way to get to God. That included you, as well. Before you accepted Jesus, it was not possible for you to have any type of **RELATIONSHIP** with the true and ever-living Almighty God! But now with Jesus Christ in your heart, the original relationship which God intended for you to have has now been restored. Now you have a new nature. As God's child, you now have HIS nature. You are valuable, holy, and righteous because God Himself has made you

righteous. Not because you earned it, but because your true heavenly Father has wanted to give you the same kind of life He has had all along. All God ever wanted was to be able to walk and talk with you.

“For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.”

I Corinthians 15:22

By receiving Jesus you have just received the same breath of life that God breathed into Adam when He made him alive. God has imparted His very life into you. You are different. Everything has changed. You are totally and completely new! You have life inside you that was never there before.

Now, just like that new little baby, you too, have a lot to learn. You have truly been **BORN-AGAIN**. There is a whole new realm in which you will grow and live. As a young child explores, experiences, and finds new discoveries every day, now you will explore and experience and make new discoveries in God’s realm. The spirit realm is where Adam once walked and where you can now

walk with God; where all of God's blessings can be yours. You can now ask your Heavenly Father for advice, wisdom, strength, healing, provision, or any other thing you may need.

“Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father’s good pleasure to give you the kingdom.” Luke 12:32 KJ

At this point, there are some things you will have to remember. Just as a little child needs a lot of attention and care, so will you. A small infant is not physically able to get up and walk off, but you are. You can make decisions that will determine how strong you will grow in the things of God. It is up to you to take advantage of all that God has provided for you. He has given you many gifts, and it is up to you to learn about them and use them. Just like with salvation God made it possible 2000 years ago, but until you accepted it it was of no use to you.

To compare you with a small child, is not meant to belittle you in any way. But as a new Christian, you are really starting all over. That's why Jesus Himself said ...

*“I tell you the truth, unless you change
and become like little children, you will
never enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

Matthew 18:2

Chapter II

He Has Forgiven You!

Jesus came to earth to redeem mankind from sin and sickness. He came to this world to do something that nobody else was capable of doing. The one reason He came was to reconcile you to God through His death.

“For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16

Due to Adam’s fall, the entire human race was now under a curse. Everyone was born under sin. Everyone was spiritually dead. Unless God did something the entire human race was destined for eternal hell. Not only did mankind not have any way of restoring their relationship to God, but because of being spiritually dead no one knew that they needed to be restored to God.

Everyone was under the curse of sin. Everyone was guilty. Not one person had a right to approach God. This was a serious problem for

God because He created the human race so that He would have sons and daughters with which to live. That's right, you were created to fellowship with God. God designed you to walk and talk and live with Him. But now, because of the fall of Adam, God's most wondrous creation was plunged into the depths of darkness, away from Him.

The worst thing that can happen to a mother and father is to have their child kidnapped. They don't sleep, they don't eat, nor do they rest until they have some news concerning the whereabouts of their child. It is a horrifying experience for any parent to wonder what may be happening to their child and to not know if that child is even still living.

How much more heart wrenching it must have been for God, who watched everything that went on. How painful it must have been for Him to watch as the people He created to love ignored Him while they defiled their bodies and minds with sin and degradation, to see the people with whom He wanted to share His desire to love and be loved, walk in hatred, anger, selfishness, lust, and greed, and to see that with each passing day, people grew deeper and deeper into sin, further and further away from Him.

The Bible tells us that our sin is what keeps us away from God. It is not God who chose to punish us. It is not God who chose to bring sickness, disease, poverty, and strife upon us. Our own ignorance of what God has done to free us of such bondage is what keeps us in such misery and pain. Sin is the culprit, not God.

“But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have hidden his face from you.” Isaiah 59:2

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” Romans 3:23

“The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’ They are corrupt, and their ways are vile; there is no one who does good. God looks down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there are any who understand, any who seek God. Everyone has turned away, they have together become corrupt; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

Psalm 53:1-3

*“For the **WAGES OF SIN** is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23*

Sin, the old nature you had right up until the time you accepted Jesus, makes you sick and poor. Sin keeps you miserable. Sin works to tear your life and everything to do with you apart. Sin takes hold of you and everybody else who does not have Jesus.

The only one in a position to do anything at all about you and your circumstances is God Himself. God had to figure out a way to rid mankind of sin, while at the same time complying with the laws of the universe. Everything God does is based on love. The Bible tells us that God is love. God is an almighty God who could, at any instant, just reach out and destroy sin and Satan. But if God ever acted outside His laws and just destroyed the problem then it could be said that love failed. God could then no longer rule by love. God wants people to love and serve Him voluntarily, not just because they are afraid He might one day do something forceful. God

is a God of honor and justice. Yes, in His Omnipotence, He could have just done away with the problem, but that would not satisfy justice.

Justice had to be carried out. The wage of sin is death! Sin always brings death. Justice would never be complete, and righteousness would never be possible, until the death penalty had been paid. Mankind was doomed to live a life of guilt under the death sentence of sin, unless God could figure something out. Mankind was certainly in no position to change his fate; he was guilty.

That's when God turned to Jesus, His only Son. Jesus was the only answer. A sacrifice had to be provided if man was ever to be free from death, and once again able to resume his rightful relationship with God. Jesus, completely innocent of sin, would pay the price for God's precious creation — YOU! Death was the only price that could redeem you out of sin, and make you God's once again. Jesus has paid that price for you. Jesus suffered the pain and agony of death, hell, and the grave so you would never have to.

“Grace to you and peace from God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for our sins, that He might deliver us from this present evil age, according to the will of our God and Father, to whom be glory forever and ever.” Galatians 1:3-5

*“And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He (God) has made alive together with Him (Jesus), having forgiven you **ALL TRESPASSES**, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements (death) that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross (when Jesus was crucified).”*

Colossians 2:13, 14

“For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

II Corinthians 5:21

Sometimes people have a hard time associating the death of Jesus Christ, with all of the errors they have made. The death of Jesus can seem so distant, while a person's mistakes can be so real.

The truth of the matter is that God provided Jesus as a sacrifice for you. The sacrifice that Jesus made is just as real to God as all of the wrong things you have ever done. The death of Jesus completely satisfies the law of sin and death, and allows you to walk completely free of the things that used to have you bound. Jesus was your **SUBSTITUTE!**

*“Surely He has borne our **griefs and carried our sorrows**; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But He was **wounded for our transgressions**; He was **bruised for our iniquities**; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and by His stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the Lord has laid **on Him the iniquity of us all**. He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; he was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. He was taken from prison and from judgement, and who will declare His generation? for He was cut off from the land of the living; **for the transgression of My people***

He was stricken. And they made His grave with the wicked — but with the rich at His death, because He had done no violence, nor was any deceit in His mouth.

Isaiah 53:4-9

*“Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the travail of His soul and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, **FOR HE SHALL BEAR THEIR INIQUITIES.**” *Isaiah 53:10-11**

God, out of His great love for you, has placed the **wage of your sin** upon Jesus. Jesus dealt with the penalty of your sins so that you would be free from the consequences. As far as God is concerned, your sin no longer exists! It has been paid for.

“For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more.”

Jeremiah 31:34

“I, even I, am He who blots out your transgressions for My own sake; and I will not remember your sins.”

Isaiah 43:25

“You will cast our sins into the depths of the sea.” Micah 7:19

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits: Who forgives all your iniquities, who heals all your diseases, who redeems your life from destruction, who crowns you with loving-kindness and tender mercies, who satisfies your mouth with good things, so that your youth is renewed like the eagle’s.”

Psalm 103:3-5

“Come now, let us reason together,” says the Lord, “though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall be as wool.” Isaiah 1:18

*“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, **ALL THINGS HAVE BECOME NEW.**”*

II Corinthians 5:17

In the eyes of God, you are as innocent of sin as if you had never sinned. You are a new creature. You no longer have to drag a deep dark past around with you, because the person with that sinful past is dead! You are a new creation in Christ Jesus! God has completely forgotten all of your sins. God has no record of your past!

For some people, it is difficult to believe that their past simply does not exist anymore. They don't understand how God can simply put aside all of the wrong things they have ever done. If you are having a hard time accepting the fact that God no longer remembers all the bad things you have done, think about this.

When you owe money to a bank, the phone company, or the power and light company, you have a debt. That debt must be paid. You may wind up with no phone or power if it is not paid. Or worse, bill collectors will come looking for you. The only thing the company is interested in is getting their money. They don't care if you pay it, if one of your relatives pay it, or if a total stranger pays it. All they want is their money. It is the same way with sin. Sin brought you a debt

that you could not pay. Jesus paid that debt for you to free you from that bondage and restore you to the relationship with God that you were supposed to have from the very beginning.

As far as justice is concerned, your debt is paid. You no longer are expected to pay something that has already been paid. Jesus paid it for you. It is perfectly legal and quite all right. Now you are free to begin life as you were meant to live all along, in a deep and intimate relationship with your heavenly Father, God Almighty.

There is a parable in the Bible that you need to know. God wants you back. He is not concerned about where you have been, or what you have done. All God sees when He looks at you is that Jesus shed His blood for you, you are now innocent and God wants you back.

PARABLE OF THE LOST SON

LUKE 15:11-32

“A certain man had two sons. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to

me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood. And not many days after, the young son gathered all together, journeyed to a far country, and there wasted his possessions with prodigal living. But when he had spent all, there arose a severe famine in that land, and he began to be in want.

“Then he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country, and he sent him into the fields to feed swine. And he would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the swine ate, and no one gave him anything.

“But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired servants have bread enough to spare, and I perish with hunger!’ I will arise and go to my father and will say to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants.’

“And he arose and came to his father. But when he was still a great way off, his

father saw him and had compassion, and ran and fell on his neck and kissed him. And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his servants, 'Bring out the best robe and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand and sandals on his feet. And bring the fatted calf here and kill it, and let us eat and be merry; for this my son was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' And they began to be merry.

"Now his older son was in the field. And as he came he drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. So he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and because he has received him safe and sound, your father has killed the fatted calf.' But he was angry and would not go in. Therefore his father came out and pleaded with him. So he answered and said to his father, 'Lo, these many years I have been serving you; I never transgressed your commandment at any time; and yet you

never gave me a young goat, that I might make merry with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came, who devoured your livelihood with harlots, you killed the fatted calf for him.'

“And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that I have is yours. It was right that we should make merry and be glad, for your brother was dead and is alive again, and was lost and is found.’”

That is the same way God feels about you. He does not like the sin you used to be involved in, but He loves you! Just like a parent who bathes a child who has fallen into a mud puddle, they remove the mud, but they love the child.

There is no sin greater than the power of the blood of Jesus. What Jesus did far outweighs any sin. Whatever you have done is not greater than God's power to forgive. God loves you, and **HAS FORGIVEN YOU!**

Chapter III

Your Heavenly Father

In the first two chapters, you learned that God loves you so much that He sent Jesus to take the punishment of your sins. The reason is so that you could once again have a **RELATIONSHIP WITH** God. In this chapter, you will learn more about the relationship God wants to have with you. He is your **heavenly FATHER**.

One of the most beautiful truths the Bible teaches is that when you accept Jesus, you become God's child. God becomes your Father! He was actually your Father from the very beginning, but you were separated from Him because of sin. Now that the sin has been taken care of, you can call yourself His child.

God wants us to know Him intimately. He longs for a close, personal relationship with you. When He created mankind, He created man to live in such a manner that He would be the most important part of their lives; that was God's plan from the very beginning, to be a very necessary part of your life. In every decision, in every event of every day, God wants to be a part of your life.

This world is constantly hurling decisions your way. You are always making choices. Every day presents countless decisions for you to make. Sometimes you have a hard time making those choices. You simply don't know what to do. That's why you need God. A preacher once said, that what you are today is a direct product of every choice you have ever made. Everyone needs guidance and truth in their life. Only in God will you find the truth. Only Jesus can bring you the advice you need. Only by doing what God wants you to do will you ever have true success; the kind of success that will make you happy.

The first and most important priority in your life is to establish an intimate and personal relationship with God. You must never forget that **nothing you ever do in your life will ever be better than your relationship with God.** If your life is a mess or you have problems in certain areas, it is because you are not right with God and it is affecting your life. You need to begin establishing a good relationship with God, and then all the other areas of your life will have room to improve.

*“Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, nor let the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories glory in this, that he **UNDERSTANDS AND KNOWS ME, THAT I AM THE LORD.**”*

Jeremiah 9:23-24

God is not saying here that wisdom, might, and riches are bad. God is not saying that we don't need to go to school, or we don't need to take care of our bodies, or that we don't need to be concerned about making money. What the Bible is saying is that we should never **GLORY** in these things. We should never take our security from the fact that we are smart or strong or have money. These things seem like admirable goals to have, but the truth is that there are problems that we all run up against that neither education, strength, nor money can solve. Only God can truly solve problems. Only God can keep our bodies healthy, our families strong, and our minds at peace.

God wants you to understand that the greatest ability or skill you will ever be able to acquire is your ability to hear His voice. Knowing God is the highest goal any human being can have. All

other goals are secondary. Yes, we need education, money, and wisdom, but without God these things are of no use.

God has a plan for you. It was actually God who created you! God had a specific purpose for your life. God has created you with just the right qualities and God-given talents to accomplish something here on this earth that no one else can do like you can. It is a plan that will bring you fulfillment and satisfaction. It will not be easy at times; it is a goal that you will have to strive and fight for to achieve, nonetheless, it is a plan that was created specifically for you. That's why we must seek God when we make decisions and plan the direction of our lives.

“For You formed my inward parts; You have covered me in my mother’s womb. I will praise you for I am fearfully and wonderfully made; marvelous are your works, and that my soul knows very well.

“My frame was not hidden from You, when I was made in secret, and skillfully wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.

Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed. And in Your book were written all the days fashioned for me, when as yet there were none of them.” Psalm 139:13-16

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the Lord, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. And you will seek Me and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:11-13

“O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps.” Jeremiah 10:23

You must understand that only in God will you ever find your true identity. Only in God will you find the “REASON” for your life. God has a special plan just for you. He already knows every detail of the plan. Like He said in the Bible, we must seek Him with all our hearts. We must be sincere in our desire to fellowship with and talk to Him.

God has set things up like this for one reason. He is a God of love. He will never force His will upon anyone. He does desire to make you a love slave. He wants you to serve Him because you trust Him and love Him. If at any point in your life you are following God's will, it will always be because you **CHOSE** to do so. He will never force you to do anything. If we ever have God's best, it will be because we want and desire it.

Everything we learn in this world teaches us to be full of pride, independent, rebellious, unforgiving, selfish, and greedy. We all learn how to exalt ourselves without considering the needs of others. From the time we are children, we hear, "Do what you want to do, be what you want to be," or "It's your life, live it any way you want to." That may sound very appealing, but the Bible says that without God we will never be able to make the correct choice. It is not in a man to direct his own steps. There is a beautiful plan for your life in God's very heart. It is up to you to find out that plan.

To some people, being told what to do by God or anyone else may not sound very attractive. That is what rebellion breeds in us. "No one is going to tell me what to do!" That's the quickest

way to have all kinds of destruction manifest in your life and wind up in hell.

You must remember, you can always choose to go against God, but it will never be the best thing for you. It won't even be good for you. You must remember that God created you and He knows you better than you know yourself. He understands everything about you and more. You have to realize that God does not have an inferiority complex. He doesn't try to boss you around, so He can feel like God. He already is God, and what you do or don't do will never change that.

“For what if some did not believe? Will their unbelief make the faithfulness of God without effect? Certainly not!”

Romans 3:3, 4

“If we are faithless, He remains faithful; He cannot deny Himself.”

II Timothy 2:13

You do not have to be on the defensive side as you deal with God. God, unlike people, does not have to prove Himself to anyone. He does not carry a chip on His shoulder. He is totally unaffected by people's opinions of Him. He is not humiliated

when He has been disobeyed, nor does authority “go to His head” when people do as He says. He is grieved in His heart out of compassion for people, and He desires to have a relationship with every person; but He never feels insignificant because He is ignored. God will always be God. You will always be able to depend on Him.

*“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights, **WITH WHOM THERE IS NO VARIATION OR SHADOW OF TURNING.**”*
James 1:17

*“Jesus Christ is **THE SAME** yesterday, today and forever.”*
Hebrews 13:8

*“For I am the Lord, I **DO NOT CHANGE.**”*
Malachi 3:6

Nothing that man can do will ever cause God to change. At times, people are more inclined to act certain ways because they are happy or sad, or in a good mood or a bad mood. But God will always be God.

The whole reason God wants to guide you is because He can see the outcome of your actions so much better than you can. God can see eternity. He knows what will happen to you tomorrow if you do a certain thing today. He does not want to lead us around like puppy dogs. He genuinely wants to help us. He is looking out for our best interest. This is why we must let our guard down when we ask God for help.

*“And the Lord commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the Lord our God, **FOR OUR GOOD ALWAYS THAT HE MIGHT PRESERVE US ALIVE**, as it is this day.”* Deuteronomy 6:24

*“But this is what I commanded them, saying, ‘Obey My voice, and I will be your God, and you shall be My people. And walk in all the ways that I have commanded you, **THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU.**’”* Jeremiah 7:23

You will never have a friend, like the friend you have in God. Remember that!

God's desire to see you succeed is so much greater than you will ever know. It was His plan to start with, why should He desire to see you fail? He wants you to succeed. He wants to help you overcome every obstacle you will ever face, but He cannot help you if you do not trust Him. It is so important that you realize that God loves you very much. He would never ask you to do anything that would harm or hurt you. God's idea of who you really are is so wonderful! But you have to trust Him if you want to see His will come to pass in your life.

You must learn to spend time in intimate fellowship with God every day. It is during those precious moments, where it's just you and Him, where you will realize just how much He really loves you. His love is something you must experience for yourself. No one will be able to tell you what it is like; it is something between you and God alone. Remember that He gave the life of His only Son for you! He loves you!

Until God's love becomes a revelation to you, until it becomes a part of you you will never be able to completely submit to God. Without

knowing the reality of His love for you, you will never be able to trust Him totally and completely with every area of your life. You will never be able to say to Him, “Here God, my life is Yours to do with as You please.”

You will never submit to God completely if you have even the slightest feeling that He is out to hurt or harm you. You must realize that you are a **PRIORITY** where God is concerned. His desire to see you succeed is so much greater than your own! Don't be afraid of Him! Spend time alone with Him every day, away from the tension and busy activities of this world. Let Him love you. It will become a holy time for you, then your faith in God will be unshakable. You will know your Heavenly Father and walk in His almighty blessings. And life will take on a whole new thrill for you.

Your next step to begin your relationship with your Heavenly Father is to find a church home. You need a pastor and a church who will care for you, nurture you, teach you the Word of Faith, and cause you to grow. Agape Church is such a church and we hope to see you there.

Chapter IV

The Holy Spirit

After salvation, God has even more of Himself that He wants to offer you, His precious Holy Spirit. You know, the Holy Spirit is the miracle working part of the Trinity! Even Jesus did not work any miracles here on the earth until He was baptized in the same Holy Spirit.

God knew that you would need help, more help than any human person could offer you. So, God sent His Holy Spirit to live with you and be with you 24 hours a day. But, just like salvation, it is something you must accept. It is something you must say “yes” to.

God is in heaven. Just a short time after the Resurrection, Jesus ascended into heaven. These were some of the last words He said just before He left ...

“But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

That was not the first time Jesus had talked about the Holy Spirit. There are several other places in the Bible that declare God wants us all to have His wonderful Holy Spirit!

“And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him or knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.”

John 14:16, 17

“But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you.” John 14:26

The Holy Spirit has many reasons to dwell with you. First of all, He comes to bring you **POWER!** The Holy Spirit comes to bring supernatural power into your life. The Holy Spirit wants to make miracles a very real part of your life. Whether it is miracles to meet your needs, or miracles that will meet the needs of others and testifies to them of God’s love. Without the Holy

Spirit, you will have no power to resist the devil. But with the Holy Spirit, you will have God's power to put an end to Satan's works.

The Holy Spirit comes to help you! In anything you have to do, whether it is getting delivered of a bad habit, or just washing the car ... the Holy Spirit wants to become a part of your life. He thinks you are so important, He wants to be with you forever! He wants to be your Counselor, your Intercessor, your Advocate, your Strengthener, and your Standby. If you have a problem, He will counsel you. He prays for you all the time. He talks to God the Father about you. He wants to bring you strength, and just be at your side, ready whenever you need Him!

The Holy Spirit also wants to teach you, and help you remember all the things God has spoken to you. The Holy Spirit is such an important person; you'll make it with His help.

“Jesus answered, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God.’” John 3:5

When you were born into the world you were born into sin. But by being born of water and of the Spirit, you are made clean and free of all the corruption you knew before. Water baptism represents the resurrection of Jesus. You can be water baptized at Agape Church. The Baptism of the Holy Spirit, however, empowers you with the very life and power of God.

“He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire.” Matthew 3:11

Your body was originally created to house the very presence of God. Your body is a physical temple. Your body is a holy thing, and the Holy Spirit now wants to sanctify you and return to you the glory of God which the enemy has tried to keep you from all this time.

“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?” I Corinthians 6:19

The Holy Spirit wants to baptize you right now. He wants to fill you with Himself. He wants

to embrace you and completely envelop you with the holy love of God.

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit is such a beautiful thing. You can experience it anywhere. Where you are right now or in church. The Bible says there is a way to be sure that you have received the Holy Spirit.

“And they were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.” Acts 2:4

“Therefore brethren, desire earnestly to prophesy and do not forbid to speak with tongues.” I Corinthians 14:39

“And these signs will follow those who believe: In my name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues.” Mark 16:17

“Likewise the Spirit also helps us in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered.”

Romans 8:26

The Holy Spirit wants to manifest Himself in you, with all His glory. He wants to baptize you in Himself. He wants to submerge you in His presence. He wants to give you the prayer language of tongues. Your very own glorious prayer language to glorify God with and to help you pray when you don't know how to pray. The Holy Spirit will actually pray through you with perfect prayers!

In just a moment, you can simply ask the Holy Spirit to baptize you. Remember, the Holy Spirit will not force you to do anything. He will never embarrass you. He only wants to love you and bring all of God's wondrous blessings into your life. You will hear unusual words which you have never heard before. It is a new language. A perfect language all your own that comes straight from your heart to God's heart. It is a love language. Just repeat with your voice what you perceive in your spirit. It may be one word or it may be a phrase. Whatever it is, just repeat it and more will come. Now, pray this prayer to receive the Baptism of the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

Father,

I come to you in the Name of Jesus. I want You to baptize me with Your Holy Spirit. I want the power of the Holy Spirit to operate in me. I want to be a temple of the Holy Spirit. Now, Holy Spirit, I open my heart to You. Fill me with Your presence and I will speak in other tongues ...

Chapter V

You Have An Enemy!

Another vital truth you must be aware of, is that you do have an enemy. This is not to make you afraid in any way; in fact, the more you learn about God and the more you grow in spiritual knowledge, the more you will realize that because of what Jesus has done you now have total and complete authority over the power of your enemy.

God is a spiritual being. Just like the physical realm that you have learned how to live in is a real world, so the spiritual realm is a real world. The more you grow as a Christian, the more you will understand about the spiritual realm. You see, the physical world is governed by the spiritual realm. Remember, the physical world was produced by the spiritual realm. Everything that happens in the physical world has already happened in the spiritual realm. The physical realm is governed and controlled by spiritual laws. Our entire globe is under the direct influence of spiritual beings.

Just like you have a spiritual God, you also have a spiritual enemy. The Bible commonly refers

to him as Satan, or the devil. To believe in a devil is not a sign of inferior intelligence. To believe in the devil is actually a sign of intelligent faith. Jesus talked about the devil. God tells us about the devil in His Word.

*“Be sober, be vigilant; because **YOUR ADVERSARY THE DEVIL** walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith.”*

I Peter 5:8, 9

You must know about your enemy, and you must know that you **CAN RESIST** him, or he will defeat you.

To give you some history about your enemy, here are scriptures describing what took place in the presence of God one day ...

“You were the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering; the sardius, topaz and diamond, beryl, onyx and jasper, sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and

pipes was prepared for you on the day you were created.

“You were the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; you were on the holy mountain of God; you walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You were perfect in your ways from the day you were created, till iniquity was found in you.

“By the abundance of your trading you became filled with violence within, and you sinned; therefore I cast you as a profane thing out of the mountain of God, and I destroyed you O covering cherub, from the midst of the fiery stones. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground.”

Ezekiel 28:12-17

At one time, Satan was called Lucifer. He was one of the most beautiful angels God had ever created. But he sinned against God. He became lifted up in pride. He actually thought that He was like God. He challenged God.

“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! How you are cut down to the ground you who weakened the nations! For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation on the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, to the lowest depths of the pit.”

Isaiah 14:12-15

Satan became so filled with pride that he thought he could be like God. He thought he could run things according to his liking. It was because of this he was cast from the presence of God.

“And He said to them, ‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.’”

Luke 10:18

Jesus was right there when it all happened. Satan was thrown down out of the presence of God forevermore. Since that day, Satan has been trying to prove that He could be like God by

trying to get people to serve him instead of God. Out of sheer pride he refuses to admit his mistake and take his punishment. He continues to try to destroy the work of God here on the earth. He tries to corrupt everything God meant for good. He tries to defile every pure thing God made. Where there is love, he tries to bring hatred. Where there is unity, he tries to bring division. Where there is wealth, he tries to bring poverty. Where there is peace, he tries to bring violence and hatred. Where there is health, he tries to bring sickness and disease. Where there is strength, he tries to bring weakness. All that is evil in this world is birthed in the heart of this being who is vile, cruel, and hateful beyond imagination. Even the authority he has here on this earth is only his because he is cunning and sneaky. He rose to power by deceit.

When Satan tempted Adam in the garden, there was something much more serious going on than trying to get Adam and Eve to eat a piece of fruit. Satan wanted Adam to disobey God. He wanted Adam to obey him. When this happened, Satan actually became the legal owner of all that Adam had, including his authority on the earth.

*“Jesus answered them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a **SLAVE** of sin.’” John 8:34*

*“For by whom a person is overcome, by him also is he brought into bondage.”
II Peter 2:19*

“Do you not know that to whom you present yourselves slaves to obey, you are that one’s slave whom you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience to righteousness?” Romans 6:16

Obedience is something you need to be very careful with. The Bible says you will become the slave of whatever you obey, whether of sin to death, or of obedience unto righteousness. When Adam obeyed Satan, he became Satan’s slave, giving the enemy the right to everything that belonged to him. Adam actually committed high treason by selling out everything he had to the enemy.

Adam was intended to rule and have dominion over the earth, but Satan took that right. That’s why Satan has so much power today over the lives of people who don’t know what Jesus has done.

*“Then the devil, taking Him up on a high mountain, showed Him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said to Him, ‘All this authority I will give you and their glory; **FORTHIS HAS BEEN DELIVERED UNTO ME**, and I give it to whomever I wish.’” Luke 4:5, 6*

Even Satan himself said that the authority over all the kingdoms of the world had been **GIVEN** to him. God would never have given His enemy authority over all He had so lovingly created. Adam gave it to him! That’s why the Bible refers to Satan as ...

“The ruler of this world.”

John 12:31

“The prince of the power of the air.”

Ephesians 2:2

“The god of this age.”

II Corinthians 4:4

Ever since then, Satan has used his powers in a continuous effort to destroy the people who are so dear to God’s heart. Satan, as ruler of this

world introduced violence, crime, murder, lust, perversion, greed, and selfishness, along with sickness and disease and every other destructive thing that exists today. Satan brings people into bondage through every available means he can use. Just as he is trying to make himself like God, he tries to get man to act like God as well. It is because of the satanic nature in people's hearts that they have a hard time submitting to one another. That's why there is so much pride and unforgiveness in the world. It's because of Satan that we see so many confused people on earth today. He lies to them about who they really are. Through his lies, people have hopelessly accepted sin and destruction as a normal part of everyday life.

“Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time.”

Revelations 12:12

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I (Jesus) have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

John 10:10

There is only one place in the entire world where we can find the truth, where we can find life as it was created to be, where we can find out who we really are. That place is in Jesus Christ. Life without God is life with the enemy. The only thing we will find out in life if we don't have God is that things go from bad to worse all the time. But with Jesus, even though things may not be easy at times, they just get better and better every day.

You see, Jesus defeated the devil. Jesus took back what authority he had over the earth. When Jesus came to earth as a man and went through every temptation that a person could go through and then died as a man, He took the wage of our sin upon Himself. Then when He took Satan's authority away from him and rose again, He made the way for us to be **BORN AGAIN**. He made it possible and available to us, to begin life all over again, to have a second chance!

“Jesus answered and said, ‘This voice did not come because of Me, but for your sake. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be cast out.’”

John 12:30, 31

“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world.” John 16:33

“Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it.”

Colossians 2:15

“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” I John 3:8

When Jesus finished His redemptive work, Satan was defeated totally and completely! He no longer has any right to dominate your life, and hold you in bondage to sin and death. He can no longer force you to do anything. Until Jesus did what He did, man was in slavery to sin. But when Jesus took back the authority Satan had taken, He then turned around and gave it back to those who would believe on His Name.

That gives you the same authority, the same power to rule over sin, that Jesus has. Now you

have complete authority over all the sin in your life. You no longer have to be driven and dominated by sin. Where sin used to be your master, now you have a new Master, and He makes you the master over all the sin in your life! Now you tell sin what to do; it no longer tells you!

“Behold, I give you authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.”

Luke 10:19

“Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.” Romans 8:37

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.” Ephesians 6:12

“Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”

James 4:7

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world — our faith.”

I John 5:4

Now you have the same authority that Jesus has to rule over all of Satan’s works in your life. It was Jesus’ authority and He gave it to you. When you resist Satan, in the Name of Jesus, it is just as though Jesus was resisting him.

Things have just taken a turn for the worse on Satan’s part. He used to have you. He used to own you. He used to control you because you were his slave. You were legally his child. You had his nature. But now, you have been redeemed. Your sin has been paid for. You have received God’s nature. And Jesus has given you **AUTHORITY OVER ALL THE POWER OF THE ENEMY**. Satan is not very happy about it. You have just been removed from his domain. He lost something that was never really supposed to be his in the first place. And he will try to get you back. He has just been demoted, and you have just been promoted. He wants his old position back.

The only attribute accredited to Satan in the whole Bible is that he is cunning. In Genesis it says that He is more cunning than any other beast. Satan's only true power is power to deceive.

“You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.” John 8:44

Satan is an expert when it comes to deceiving, lying, tricking, seducing, luring, and attracting people. He makes death look appealing. He appeals to the carnal desires of a man with three temptations; the same three temptations he tempted Jesus with: the lust of the eye, the lust of the flesh, and the pride of life.

Satan always tries to divert people away from God, into being their own god, by satisfying their fleshly desires, their desire to be somebody important, or their desire for money. He always

tries to get people lifted up in pride, so they exalt themselves; or tries to get people into a place where they are satisfying their flesh with sex, drugs, alcohol, or tobacco; or he tries to make people greedy so they will do anything for money and power.

Satan is so subtle in the way he works because he makes people think they are doing things because they want to, because they chose to. He tells people they are the master of their own life and that they should live their life any way they want. That's when people get in bondage. They get addicted. Their desire takes control of them until it finally destroys them. All in the name of freedom. There is no freedom in bondage! Satan offers everybody bondage to sin and death, but because he paints it up real pretty and makes it look like fun, people go for it left and right.

A perfect example of this is the young boy who tries a cigarette as a youngster, and eventually winds up smoking two packs a day for many years until he has to have a lung removed. Or the young girl who tries marijuana and eventually gets introduced to other drugs until she is hooked and winds up prostituting herself for money or dies

of an overdose. Or a teenager who takes a social drink at the disco and winds up an alcoholic. Or the other young teenager who experimented with pornography and sex until he or she wound up with some sexually transmitted disease. Or the teenager who thought it was easier to steal than to work and wound up in prison because he got scared and accidentally killed someone who caught him in the act.

None of these people ever decided as a young child, “I think I’ll be an alcoholic, or a drug addict when I grow up.” They were introduced to it, and little by little, in the name of fun, it took over their life and destroyed them. That’s what Satan does! He is the one who blinds people and makes sin and death look so appealing, that people forsake all just to experience it.

“But even if the gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing, whose minds the god of this age has blinded, who do not believe, lest the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine on them.”

II Corinthians 4:4

“And that they may come to their senses and escape the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to do his will.”

II Timothy 2:26

“For they do not sleep unless they have done evil.”

Proverbs 5:16

“To do evil is like sport to a fool.”

Proverbs 10:23

“He who pursues evil pursues it to his own death.”

Proverbs 11:19

“For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame — who set their mind on earthly things.”

Philippians 3:18, 19

Because of Satan, sin becomes so attractive, so necessary, so consuming that people can't sleep without it. Sin becomes like sport and people chase after it. When people ought to be ashamed

of the way they act, this world makes them proud enough to boast about it. All of this is only because Satan is a liar! He is a master at deception.

Now remember, when you accept Jesus into your heart Satan has lost you. He doesn't like that. He will try to get you back any way he can. He is a thief, a murderer, and a destroyer. That is all he ever does. Do not be at all surprised if you find yourself facing some unusual or unexpected problems when you accept Jesus. Whatever you do, **DON'T BLAME YOUR PROBLEMS ON GOD!** That's exactly what Satan wants you to do.

There have been many times when people accept Jesus, and something bad happens. They blame God and never return to church. That is the work of the enemy. Remember, he is a thief. Satan has all kinds of ways of causing bad things to happen, and if you don't know the truth he'll make you believe God did it. The Bible says that Satan comes immediately to steal the Word that is sown in your heart.

"The sower soweth the word.

“And these are they by the way side, where the word is sown; but when they have heard, Satan cometh immediately, and taketh away the word that was sown in their hearts.

“And these are they likewise which are sown on stony ground; who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with gladness;

“And have no root in themselves, and so endure but for a time: afterward, when affliction or persecution ariseth for the word’s sake, immediately they are offended.

“And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word,

And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful.

“And these are they which are sown on good ground; such as hear the word, and receive it, and bring forth fruit,

some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred.” Mark 4:14-20

Satan tries to make you a slave to sin from the moment you are born. If he can convince you that you are hopeless or helpless, or that you were just born a certain way, he can control you for the rest of your life. But remember, he has tried to do this because **he is afraid of you!** Just like the king set taskmasters over the people, so Satan assigns certain spirits to you to afflict you all your life. These taskmasters are demon spirits or fallen angels who were cast out of heaven with Satan. These are nothing more than spiritual beings who influence you. Why do you think people have certain problems over and over in the same areas all the time? There is a spirit there, assigned by Satan to cause the affliction. The taskmaster's job is to afflict you and keep you burdened!

Don't allow Satan to stop you from learning and growing in the things of God. Begin now to become a disciple of Jesus.

Remember, you are a child of God and you are more than a conqueror. Satan can't touch you. You are covered by the blood of Jesus and

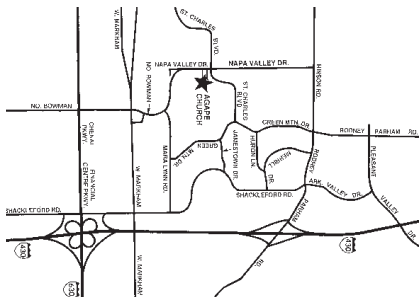
the Holy Spirit is your helper. You can't lose for winning ... because somebody up there loves you, and that somebody is God.

Prayer For Salvation

Heavenly Father, I come to You in the Name of Jesus. Your Word says, "... whosoever shall call on the Name of the Lord shall be saved." (Acts 2:21) I am calling on You. I pray and ask Jesus to come into my heart and be Lord over my life according to Romans 10:9, 10, "If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God has raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." I do that now. I confess that Jesus is Lord, and I believe in my heart that God raised Him from the dead. I am now born again according to Your Word! I am a Christian — a child of Almighty God! I am saved!

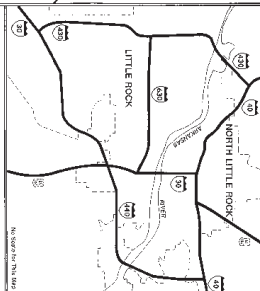
If you are not attending a good Word of Faith Church, we would love to have you visit Agape Church. We have Sunday Life Groups for almost everyone!

Agape Church is located at
 701 Napa Valley Dr.
 in West Little Rock, AR 72211
 Phone 501-225-0612



SCALE IN FEET
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AGAPE CHURCH
 701 NAPA VALLEY DR.
 LITTLE ROCK, AR, 72215



Happy Caldwell



In 1979 God spoke to Happy Caldwell to build a spiritual production center in Little Rock, in order to take the good news of Jesus Christ to the city, state, nation and world. Happy and his wife Jeanne founded Agape Church, a strong spirit-filled body of believers. Through his deep sensitivity to the Spirit of God, and his anointed teaching - the lost are being saved, the sick healed, and thousands are being blessed.

In 1988 Happy and Jeanne answered a direct call from the Lord to take His message beyond Central Arkansas. They founded VTN - the Victory Television Network. This network of 3 full power TV stations is carried on over 200 cable systems and is bringing the Gospel into more than 1.2 million households. Through his own daily program, Arkansas Alive, Happy presents the Word in profound simplicity, making the character of God a revelation to those who hear.

Also desiring to see spiritual excellence in education, the ministry of Agape Church has grown to include an elementary academy, a school of world evangelism, and Agape College which offers both diploma and degree programs.

Happy's ministry is known for instilling Christian principles in strategic leadership. He was honored for this in 2005 with an invitation to participate in the U.S. Army War College Strategic Leader Staff Ride. In addition to his own ministry responsibilities, he serves on the Board of Directors for the International Charismatic Bible Ministries, and Faith Christian Fellowship in Tulsa.

He is a recipient of the Peter J. Daniels Caleb Encourager Award, which has been bestowed upon such notable names as Norman Vincent Peale, Nelson Mandela and Dr. Oral Roberts. He has also been recognized by the Arkansas Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission with The Salute to Greatness Community Service Award.

Happy Caldwell continues to travel worldwide delivering the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. He has recorded several albums with his wife Jeanne and has written several books including *Saving Our Cities* and *No More Limits*.

Weekly Schedule

Sunday

Life Groups	9:00 am
Adult Services	10:00 am
Children's Church	10:00 am
Evening Service	6:00 pm
Kidz Klub	6:00 pm
Cross Training	6:00 pm
Youth Service	6:00 pm

Monday

Intercession	7:00 pm
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Wednesday

Personal Growth & Development	7:00 pm
Youth Service	7:00 pm

Saturday

Velocity	7:00 pm
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