

from the nest of



◆ Eagle Summit Ministry ◆

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I Just Can't Help It, It's A Habit . . .

As the end of 2003 approaches, if you are thinking about making any new year's resolutions, take heart; people have been struggling with them ever since the early Babylonians started the tradition. (Their most popular resolution was to return borrowed farm equipment, in case you were wondering.) With 2004 on the horizon, it is common for many of us to consider "New Year's Resolutions." Resolutions usually involve habits, stopping bad ones or starting new ones. God has designed us as creatures of habit. You probably brush your teeth the same way everyday, it's routine. You put one shoe on before another out of habit. You put your coat on one sleeve always first without even thinking about it. Habits can be God's way of helping us do things without the necessity of concentrating on them fully. Good habits help us save time.

The habits we tend to think about the most are the ones that plague us, the ones we wish we did not have, or the good ones we wish we could cultivate. Habits can enslave us when we trust our time to our sinful nature. We can allow habits to become our masters instead of mastering our habits. The Apostle Paul, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, has given us the pattern for God's method to break a bad habit in **Ephesians 4:22-29**: "that you **put off**, concerning your former conduct, the **old man** which grows corrupt according to the deceitful lusts, and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and that you **put on** the **new man** which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness. Therefore, **putting away lying**, "Let each one of you **speak truth** with his neighbor," for we are members of one another." Be angry, and do not sin": do not let the sun go down on your wrath, nor give place to the devil. Let him who stole **steal no longer**, but rather **let him labor**, working with his hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. Let **no corrupt word** proceed out of your mouth, but **what is good** for necessary edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers." (NKJ)

Too often we are merely concerned about stopping a bad habit with little if any thought as to what we will do to replace that bad habit. Every action consumes a certain amount of time. Stop one action and something else will fill the vacuum left. Just as important as realizing one habit is bad or negative is to ask God for something positive, something Godly to fill the void. The enemy is clever. He does not want us to understand this principle of growth in our walk with God. He says, "Go ahead and try to stop that bad habit. Just quit." He knows we will fail if we fail to have something new and good to replace the old and hurtful. We must plan to fill the void with something positive when we choose to displace the negative.

Remember what Jesus did. It's great to think "WWJD," **What Would Jesus Do**, but even more importantly is to remember what Jesus did. There is an enemy whose sole purpose is to steal, to kill and to destroy, but Jesus came, He died and conquered death to bring us life, full and meaningful life. He wants us to learn to master our habits and allow our God-directed spirit to control our lives, not for our fleshly habits to master us. John 10:10 "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly." (Continued on page 2)



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"Serving those who serve others from behind a pulpit or from behind a badge"

Here are some good habits that we should all attempt to build into our lives. Habits define us, our character, our relationship with God. Use this list of positives to replace some of the negative habits in your life of which God has made you aware

- **Read your Bible daily.** Read Scripture with the purpose of learning more about God, His person, His nature, His character. It is in knowing God more intimately that I can learn to love Him more and as I learn to love God more, my motivation for service is refined. It is God's word alone that is to help us define what we believe and what we do. Write this on a front page of your Bible, "This Book will keep you from sin, or sin will keep you from this Book." Read Psalm 119
- **Pray first.** Before reacting or getting angry when you have to wait, use this as a trigger to talk to God. Use this as a time to pray for others. Walk and pray. Do yard work and pray. Drive and pray (It's O.K. to keep your eyes open). Pray for your Pastor. Pray for our ministry. Ephesians 6:18 "praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit . . ."
- **Attend church regularly.** If you have to wonder every Saturday night or Sunday morning, "Should I go to church?" You will think of a dozen reasons to stay home. That's a bad habit. It's easily replaced with a good one. Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.
- **Put others before yourself.** By nature we tend to put ourselves first. Be aware of this tendency and on purpose control it. Romans 12:10 Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;
- **Guard your thought life on purpose.** Work at filling your mind with Scripture when sinful thoughts invade, and they will. Romans 12:2 "And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind . . ." Proverbs 4:23 "Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." You and a trusted friend could hold each other accountable in this and other areas of developing Godly habits.

Get in the habit of determining your motive for doing what you do. God wants us to be honest with ourselves. I find that being painfully honest with myself is incredibly difficult. Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; who can know it?" Pure motives are developed by spending time with God.

This is a short list. Ask God to show you specifics regarding spiritual disciplines He wants establish in your life. Don't limit your Creator. It has been said that if a person repeats an action for sixteen days it becomes a habit. Give it a try and see.

**Anything that is right to do, God has already enabled us to do it.
Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."**

Think of everyday, every challenge, every triumph and indeed every defeat as feathers on your wings. Then, one day, the sum of all God has taught you will allow you fly where only eagles dare.



Recommended Reading List

- *Fresh Wind, Fresh Fire*, Jim Cymbala
- *Passion and Purity*, Elisabeth Elliot
- *Pastors at Risk: Help for Pastors*, Hope . . ., H.B. London, Jr. and Neil B. Wiseman
- *The Purpose Driven Life*, Rick Warren
- *Screwtape Letters*, C.S. Lewis
- *This Little Church Went to the Market*, Gary E. Gilley

In our next letter, the plan is to include some great web addresses you may wish to visit.

LOVE OF LEAF

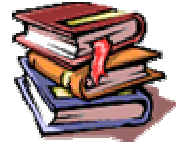
I love the leaves in April,
When the new ones have started to form.
I love the leaves in June
When the days are sultry and warm.
I love the leaves in August
When I feel I'm about to bake.
But I find my leaf-love has left me,
When I see it is time to rake.

Emily Carlin





**If you are in the Spokane area and looking for a great source for Christian Literature and Music,
Visit the Sower Bible Bookstore at 5023 N. Addison Street
The Sower has added a Used Book Section to their Inventory.
This is a unique opportunity to purchase good used Christian books at a great savings as well as sell your gently used books.
Contact the store owner, Hal Green
or one of the staff at the Sower for further details (Phone: 484-1226).**



Rural churches grow just like big churches. They do it by getting outside the walls and serving people. They have a sense of faith and destiny. They know they're not here just for themselves. - Gene Mims, LifeWay Christian Resources

Mark your calendar for the
2004 Christian Life Impact Conference
(formerly known as the Christian Workers' Conference)
March 11-13.
Check with your church for registration details..

The Feud



There was a feud between the Pastor and the Choir Director of the Hicksville Southern Baptist Church. It seems the first hint of trouble came when the Pastor preached on dedicating yourselves to service and the Choir Director chose to sing: "I Shall Not Be Moved"

Trying to believe it was a coincidence, the Pastor put the incident behind him. The next Sunday he preached on giving... Afterwards, the choir squirmed as the director led them in the hymn: "Jesus Paid It All"



By this time, the Pastor was losing his temper. Sunday morning attendance swelled as the tension between the two built. A large crowd showed up the next week to hear his sermon on the sin of gossiping. Would you believe the Choir Director selected: "I Love To Tell The Story"?

There was no turning back.

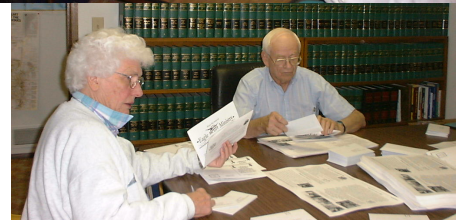
The following Sunday the Pastor told the congregation that unless something changed he was considering resignation. The entire church gasped when the Choir Director led them in: "Why Not Tonight."

No one was surprised when the Pastor resigned a week later; explaining that Jesus had led him there and Jesus was leading him away. The Choir Director could not resist: "What A Friend We Have In Jesus."

Special "THANKS" to the "Crew"

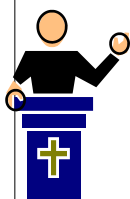
As we begin our 8th year of ministry, we thank the special folks who assist in getting our newsletter to you six times each year. Headed by Viola Eden, "the crew" folds and stuffs 550-600 copies of our newsletter in preparation for the mail distribution service that completes the bulk mail requirements. The first newsletter, our family "volunteered" to help. After that, most of these folks have been faithfully helping for the past seven years.

Thank you so much for your faithful service. Pictured to the right are: Viola Eden, Joyce Butler, Dee Gockley, Wilma Swanson, Ruth Sweeney and Bob Edwards. Those not pictured who have assisted in the past are Bob Carr, Dorothy Rodkey, Diane Hippe and Gloria King.



**The Purpose
of Eagle Summit Ministry:**

**“To serve those
who serve others
from behind a
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behind
a badge.”**



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May you especially enjoy the time God gives you with family and friends this
Holiday Season. Have a Wonder-filled Christmas
and a New Year looking forward to The return of Christ.

Eagle Summit Ministry 4

To Summit Up

2nd and 4th Sundays each month through December —

Grace Church, Osburn, ID, Assisting with Children's ministry

November 2 — Real Life Ministries, Spokane Valley, Puppet Ministry Training Seminar

November 5 — Chaplain's Training

December 29 — OT Walk Thru the Bible, Harrington Community Church, Harrington, WA
Available for pulpit supply and other needs as God open doors of ministry.

Pray & Give As God Impresses You . . .

Here are some of our current needs:

- Recent Van repairs - \$280 tune-up, \$60 new battery, \$482 for new brakes
- Clip Art for PowerPoint presentations, brochures and teaching handouts - \$104
- Software Purchase - Logos Scholar's Bible Software - \$500
- Special object lesson materials - \$300
- Widow's Mite Fund - assisting widow's in need
- Barnabas Fund - established to assist those in ministry



**Your gifts are a vote of confidence for our service to Pastors and local churches.
Your prayers and financial support are a constant source of energy and encouragement.**