

The Choice to Rejoice

Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!
–Philippians 4:4

Just Tell Him

Praise the Lord. Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; his love endures forever. –Psalm 106:1

How to Move God's Heart

One of the greatest sins in the church is not necessarily gossip, strife, addictions, adultery or fornication—even though all these things are sin. What I believe is the greatest sin today, especially in America, is the sin of prayerlessness or *leaving God alone*.

We can easily become caught in the trap where our only consistent time of prayer is offered before each meal and that's about it. You know what I mean by the *meal prayers*, don't you? "God is good; God is great. I'm so hungry I could eat this plate."
I've been so hungry before that sometimes I *have* felt like eating the plate.

One time when I prayed a quick prayer over my meal, I felt

the Lord say, "Now, Hank, did you mean that from your heart?"
Like most of us,
I didn't mean or even hear what I had prayed. Since then, I
always feel
convicted when I pray insincere prayers, even if the food is
making my mouth
water.

Stop Judging!

Therefore judge nothing before the appointed time; wait till
the Lord comes. He will bring to light what is hidden in
darkness and will expose the motives of men's hearts. At that
time each will receive his praise from God. **-1 Corinthians 4:5**

Remember the Benefits

Praise the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.
-Psalm 103:2

No Place for Gloating

Do not gloat when your enemy falls; when he stumbles, do not
let your heart rejoice ... **-Proverbs 24:17**

Feedback

"I believe Charisma continues to play a crucial role in bringing insight and unity to the body of Christ."

—Bessie Watson Rhoades

Revival for the Long-Haul

Charisma has been a staple since my conversion in the 1970s. I so appreciate how you continually morph and rebirth the magazine. I believe *Charisma* continues to play a crucial role in bringing insight and unity to the body of Christ. Thanks for stretching me again with the March issue. We need the truth about revival *today*. It's not just for a few wacky zealots in it for the short haul; it's for every committed, rooted Christian serious about our mandate to heal the sick, raise the dead, preach the gospel and make disciples.

Bessie Watson Rhoades, Cleveland

Stop the Fighting!

Marcus Yoars' editorial, "Have We Become Armchair Revivalists?" (March) was excellent! My heart is saddened because so many fellow Christians do not participate in any move of God yet roundly criticize those who are blessed and changed by a move of God. I long for the church to be one in spirit and in truth, and for us to quit all our hateful bickering and backbiting.

Elaine Beachy, Manassas, Va.

How Divine was Jesus?

I have enjoyed *Charisma* for many years. However, I'm confused and disappointed by some statements pastor Bill Johnson made in "You've Got The Power!" (March). He claims that Jesus "emptied Himself of His divinity. ... It's vital to note that He did all His miracles as a man, not as God." The Philippians passage that Johnson cites never says He gave up His divinity. He did give up some of His majesty to become human, but if we take in the whole counsel of the Word, Jesus performed all His miracles as 100 percent God and 100 percent man. Christ the God-Man is a mystery, and we must handle the mystery with care.

Melisa Morse, via email

Missing a Hunter

I noticed in your March issue you left out one very powerful healing ministry: that of Joan Hunter, whose parents were Charles and Frances Hunter, aka "the Happy Hunters." I've been in Joan's meetings where there are multiple healings and instantaneous miracles! Your issue was good but missing Joan Hunter.

Becky Rogers, Raleigh, N.C.

The Million Heirs Club

As a 15-year-old Daniel King was inspired to set a goal larger than most could even dream. He'd read a success book that told him to aim for earning \$1 million by age 30. But King, who grew

up on the mission field, set a different goal: to see 1 million souls saved by the time he was 30.

“Instead of trying to become a millionaire I wanted to lead 1 million ‘heirs’ into the kingdom of God. And God started opening up doors,” he said.

At 28, just two years shy of his 30th birthday, King led his 1 millionth heir to Christ during a crusade in Haiti. Though most Christians never witness such a feat, it was only the beginning for King. Now 33, the evangelist has set a new goal of leading 1 million people to Christ *every year*.

King is feverishly working to reach this new objective in places such as Pakistan, Indonesia, Sudan, Ethiopia and other nations in the 10/40 window, where the message of Christ has never been heard. His crusades consistently draw tens of thousands, and his efforts to train local pastors have resulted in planting 14 house churches with 70 people or more attending each.

“For me it’s an awesome privilege to go to these places and tell people about Jesus,” King says. “They’re so hungry for the gospel, and when you go to a nation and you see thousands and thousands of people who want to hear about Jesus, you see how powerful the message of God’s love really is.”

On the Rise

“God is *supernaturally* raising up a movement of young people like I have never seen in 27 years of student ministry—ever. It is as if the Spirit of God is just beckoning this to happen.”...—**Jay Mooney**, after the Converge21 USA conference,

where young people and church leaders fervently prayed for and discussed the future of the Holy Spirit-empowered movement.

Redemption

Telling his story in *Redemption: A Rebellious Spirit, A Praying Mother, and the Unlikely Path to Olympic Gold*, Olympic athlete Bryan Clay hailed from inauspicious and troubled beginnings to ascend to athletic prowess and stardom.

Clay, who has garnered a 2008 gold medal and a 2004 silver medal in the decathlon, grew up in a contentious, drug-abusing and fractured household, having no hope of being a professional athlete. His parents divorced at a formative age, and Clay became an angry youth. His waywardness followed him to Azusa Pacific University, where he continued to sow his wild oats yet also grow in his love of track and field.

This autobiography is the story of an “unlikely champion,” a praying mother and a young man who chose to reexamine his priorities and relationship with God. By eventually “putting God first,” Clay learned discipline and commitment. Now a husband and father, he also created his own foundation to offer hope, guidance and self-confidence to children. *Redemption* is an authentic story of conversion and transformation that will touch a diverse readership.

Taking Action

Reinhard Bonnke

(Charisma House)

Internationally known evangelist and author Reinhard Bonnke takes a comprehensive look at the person and work of the Holy Spirit in his newest release, *Taking Action*. The book tackles this topic through the eyes of an evangelist, but more than that, it is a successful attempt to produce a handbook of solid theology for the church to understand what it means to be filled and operating in the **Holy Spirit's** power.

Bonnke begins with an overview of the importance of being baptized in the **Sp**irit, then goes into greater detail describing each of the gifts of the Spirit as listed in 1 Corinthians 12 and 14.

Although Bonnke illustrates his points with personal experiences, much of the book is an examination of Scripture. Indeed, there is an appeal for Christians to get back to the Bible and to measure all experience by it. At the same time, Bonnke wants readers to avoid being legalistic—which would strangle the grace of God and the **Sp**irit's freedom—and maintains that Scripture is the loving guide to greater freedom and not meant to punish people with rules.

The German-born teacher does not communicate casually in English as other popular authors; his writings take on a more structured and formal tone, yet it never detracts from—rather, it enhances—the rich content. *Taking Action* is both spiritual and sensible and will prove to be a great resource for those who want to be faithful in their walk with God.