

Pray for Peace



During my trip to Israel in late March, I ran into a group of Jewish kids on a field trip in Jerusalem's tourist area. They were giggling and chatting like a brood of cackling hens, when two of them jumped in front of my camera and asked me to take a picture of them. I did and they skipped off.

With backpacks in tow and ponytail dangling, those kids looked like the kids in my neighborhood; they looked normal to me. But their chaperone did not.

The 21-year-old wore a pair of blue jeans with a dark-colored jacket; a bracelet and something else—a high-powered assault rifle strapped to her shoulder. The weapon was longer than the arms that carried it.

A Mother's Love: Priceless

This week, moms across the country will be showered with gifts and heart-felt words from their loved ones in recognition of Mother's Day. I'm glad someone thought to set aside the second Sunday in May to honor the faithful women who love and care for their families.

Decades ago gospel singer Shirley Caesar penned a song that I believe characterizes the depth of a mother's love—and God's love for us. *No Charge* is a song about a young boy who charges his mom a fee every time he completes his chores or helps out around the house.

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For mowing the lawn, \$5
Taking out the trash, \$1
Running errands, 50 cents
Making his *own* bed, \$1
"Playing" with his brother, 25 cents

The boy includes a few more chores to the list, adds it up, and hands his mother a bill for \$. Had that been my mother and me, she would have told me to sit down and be quiet—or else!

But the woman responds to her son the way I believe Jesus responds to us.

"For the nine months I carried you, growing inside me, no charge / For the nights I sat up with you, doctored you, prayed for you, no charge / For the time and the tears and the cost through the years, there is no charge ... / For the nights

filled with dread and the worries ahead, no charge / For advice and the knowledge and the cost of your college, no charge / ... When you add it all up / The full cost of my love is no charge."

The Bible says for God so loved the world that He gave His only Son (see John 3:16). The Son, in turn, gave His life for us and paid the price for sin. So be encouraged as you render selfless service to your family. Jesus is your role model, and He is pleased to know you are following in His footsteps.

Happy Mother's Day!

British Airline 'Wipes' Israel Off Map

British Midland Airways Limited (BMI) reportedly omitted Israel from in-flight charts on flights bound for the Holy Land, according to *Times Online*.

"Passengers were shocked to discover that Israel had been wiped off the map by Britain's BMI airline, which omitted the Jewish state from its digital charts on flights from London to Tel Aviv. Neither Jerusalem nor Tel Aviv itself, which is Israel's largest city, were shown on the airline's in-flight map." To read more, [click here](#).

Yearning for More of God

The path to the higher realms of the Spirit has always led through the barren wilderness. It is there we realize the desperate hunger and thirst within that only God can satisfy.

California Church Builds Interactive Holocaust Memorial

Vowing that it will “never forget,” a California church is today unveiling an interactive exhibit honoring the 6 million Jews who died during the Holocaust.


Built by Cornerstone Church in Fresno, the Holocaust Experience will guide visitors through scenes of 12 major events that took place between 1933 and 1945. The scenes span from the rise of Adolf Hitler to Kristallnacht, or “the Night of Broken Glass,” when nearly 1,000 synagogues were set on fire across Germany, to Hitler’s decision to execute genocide as “the final solution to the Jewish question.”

The exhibit, which will be on display until Sunday, is housed in the church’s 10,000-square-foot educational facility and cost nearly \$10,000 to build.

Sight-Seeing In Caesarea

My trip to Israel took me to many interesting and fascinating places. On the second day of my travels, I toured Caesarea, an ancient port built by King Herod. There I saw ruins of an ancient vomitoruim (my tour guide, Tison Ben David, explains the meaning of the name in the clip) and a reconstructed Roman theater. When biblical history meets archeology, the Bible truly comes to life.

Israel Mourns Fallen Soldiers, Celebrates 61 Years of Independence

Israelis shifted gears on Tuesday evening from mourning its  fallen soldiers to celebrating the nation's 61st Independence Day.

Opening the official ceremony at Mount Herzl in Jerusalem, Knesset Speaker Reuven Rivlin said, "We have come once again to this hill—on one side the grave of the prophet [of Zionism], on the other the graves of our children—to remind ourselves once again from where we came, and where, with the grace of God, with the blood of our children and with the sweat of our brow, we have succeeded in reaching so far.

Rivlin said that moving directly from Remembrance Day to Independence Day is the "purest preparation" for the subsequent joy. Earlier in the week, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told a memorial gathering to honor slain Israeli soldiers and that the global threat of terror was greater than

ever. "We have no choice but to fight terror until it is obliterated and to defend our lives," he said.

Face Your Fears

✘ What do you do when you're struggling with feelings of fear? Do you face your emotions and come up with ways to combat the problem? Or do you concede defeat and allow the assaults to continually rob you of your joy?

Fear is a powerful emotion and when left unchecked, it metastasizes like a cancer cell. It spreads quickly through your mind destroying your creativity, confidence and the godly authority you once wielded as a servant of the Lord. The result is paralysis of the will.

Several years ago I was ministering to a woman in her 70s who told me she didn't go to college because she had been retained in sixth grade. She was afraid and thought she would never be good enough to be a college student. She managed to graduate high school, but low self-esteem gave way to fear and she stopped living life to the fullest.

Today, with the help of the Holy Spirit, she is facing her fears head on. She enrolled in a community college and is pursuing a degree in business.

What's holding you back from fulfilling your godly purpose? Have you fallen prey to some sin and now you're afraid God doesn't love you? Do you listen to the enemy's lies about who you are? Whatever the cause, fear is keeping you from your destiny.

When you see fear coming or sense its presence, face it. Fear

is oftentimes rooted in deception. But when you discover the truth of God's Word, you begin to see yourself as God sees you. How freeing! Let the Holy Spirit transform your thinking today (see Romans 12: 1-2).

We don't have to live our lives characterized by fear. We can live confidently and carry out His will in the earth. God hasn't given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound, well-disciplined mind (see 2 Tim. 1:7).

Valerie G. Lowe is editor of SpiritLed Woman eMagazine.

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