

January/February 2013



Jewels

For His

Crown



A periodical for Christian Young Ladies.



Happy Spring!

Our world is ever changing, from the seasons to our way of life. There are many changes that are good for us, some give us great joy and satisfaction, while others can make us worry a bit. In this issue, I would like to encourage you to look into your own heart and see if there are some changes that you need to make. We are always up for improvement, no matter who we are. One malady that everyone seems to have is “passing the buck,” or simply not taking responsibility for their own actions. Casting blame started a long time ago in the garden, and it is still a besetting sin. So, read the quotes and articles in this paper carefully and determine to make a change in your heart. “The 'buck' stops here!” God's Blessings!

~T. Miller

Take your life in your own hands, and what happens?

A terrible thing: no one to blame.

~Erica Jong

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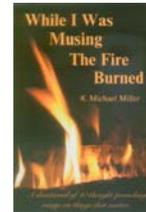
Our Book Store

We still have two books available, “**As The Days Go By**”, a collection of poems by Sis. Teresa Miller. The book is a 68-page paperback edition of original poetry. The cost is \$6.95 plus sh/hdl charges.

Also available, “**While I Was Musing, The Fire Burned**”, a book of devotions written by Bro. Mike Miller, which many have already found a great blessing. The cost is \$9.95 plus sh/hdl charges. Order both for \$15!

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We do not sin simply because of Satan or because of social deprivation, stressful situations, bad influences, or any other external cause. Those things may tempt us to sin and make sinning easier, but when we commit sin – or even intend to commit sin – it is because we decide to sin. Sin is an act of the will.

John MacArthur



If you mess up, 'fess up.

~Author Unknown

"I must do something" always solves more problems than "Something must be done." ~Author Unknown

*A man
sooner or later
discovers that he
is the master-gardener of his soul,
the director of his life.*
~James Allen

The willingness to accept responsibility for one's own life is the source from which self-respect springs. ~Joan Didion

*Most of us can read
the writing on the wall:
we just assume
it's addressed to someone else.*
~Ivern Ball

*Mistakes fail
in their mission
of helping the person
who blames them on
the other fellow.*
~Henry S. Haskins



A man feared his wife was not hearing as well as she used to and he thought she might need a hearing aid. Not quite sure how to approach her, he called the family Doctor to discuss the problem. The Doctor told of a simple informal test the husband could perform to give the Doctor a better idea about her hearing loss. "Here's what you do," said the Doctor, "stand about 40 feet away from her, and in a normal conversational speaking tone see if she hears you. If not, go to 30 feet, then 20 feet, and so on until you get a response." That evening, the wife was in the kitchen cooking dinner, and he was in the den. He says to himself, "I'm about 40 feet away, let's see what happens." Then in a normal tone he asks, "Honey, what's for dinner?" No response. So the husband moves in closer to the kitchen, about 30 feet from his wife and repeats, "Honey, what's for dinner?" Still no response. Next he moved into the dining room where he was about 20 feet from his wife and asks, "Honey, what's for dinner?" Again he got no response. So he walked up to the kitchen door, about 10 feet away. "Honey, what's for dinner?" Again there is no response. So he walked right up behind her. "Honey, what's for dinner?" "James, for the FIFTH time, I've said CHICKEN!" Moral of the story: The problem may not be with the other person as we sometimes think; it could be very much within us!

Herb Life

In the following issues I will be giving you some ideas of natural remedies that you should know about. God gave us an amazing world with herbs and plants which contain good things for us. Too many miss them, and we need to be learning about the abundant supply of goodness the Lord has provided for us. So, here we go...

Garlic – It is something that you have in your cabinet that has the

potential of curing colds, flu and other viruses. Other than being good for you to eat (and a bit stinky), it can be made into tinctures, poultices, and even rubs that can relieve sore muscles, cure an ear ache, or chase your athlete's foot away. Always use it fresh, not minced from a jar. Crush it long-wise to release the oils and chemicals, then either mix it with warm olive or sweet oil for rubs and ear infections, or place it in a folded strip of cheese cloth with a little hot water on it to hold on your wrist or ankle for colds or flu. Garlic contains powerful antibiotics. Just be sure not to leave a poultice on your skin for too long (no longer than 15-20 minutes) as it can cause skin irritations or even burns. Olive oil on your skin first will help.



Plantain & Jewel Weed – Do any of you have problems with

poison oak, ivy, or sumac? Here is something very interesting to know. A little plant called, "Jewel Weed", normally grows near where you would find poison plants that happens to be part of the cure for its nasty counterpart. When Jewel Weed is mixed with another common herb, Plantain, and some aloe vera gel, it becomes the "Poison Ivy Fix"! Plantain can be found around in your yard almost anywhere. To make the "Poison Ivy Fix", simply put equal amounts of washed Jewel Weed and Plantain in a blender with enough water to help it blend. Then strain out the green juice through a cheese cloth and mix with some aloe vera gel, which will help the herbs to soak in and to soothe the red, itchy skin. Plantain by itself is a wonderful cure for insect bites and stings. Have some blended mix handy in the refrigerator during the summer months for a quick, cool remedy for those nasty wasp stings. Or if you have an emergency away from home, find a plant on the ground, chew a leaf, and put the goo on the sting. It may be gross but it's worth the trouble.:-)



There are many other herbs that are good for medicines and also for aromatherapy. There is Lavender, Rosemary, Lemon Verbena, and various types of Mint, just to name a few. You could even grow many of these things in flower gardens that are pretty and also helpful. Just knowing that there are cures and remedies available to

you at all times is greatly beneficial. Living and eating healthy foods is a part of keeping ourselves fit for the work of the Lord. May the Lord bless your efforts!

The Blame Game

I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin. Selah. Psalms 32:5

It is normally called, "Passing the buck." We have heard it since the beginning of time, for it started with Adam and his wife. The devil took the form of a serpent and deceived the woman into thinking that God was wrong and if she ate the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, she would not die. So with a deceived heart, she took what was forbidden and then gave it to Adam and he ate it, also. But when they were confronted by God, they all started blaming the next person in line. *"And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat."* Genesis 3:12 With the attention turned upon the woman, she gave her plea; *"... What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat."* Genesis 3:13 So the curse started with the very beginning of this terrible down-fall; the serpent. Many would say that it was all the serpent's fault, but God did not see it that way. His judgment was on the serpent first, but then the woman had her part as well as her husband, Adam. There was no way that they could escape their guilt in the matter, especially since they knew what God had said directly to them. *"Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."* James 4:17 And that is what I want to discuss with you in this devotional today.

There is another good example of "passing the buck" in 1 Samuel 15. Saul, the son of Kish, had just been installed as king over Israel, and God had sent him on a mission to destroy the Amalekites and everything that they had because of the way that they had attacked the Israelites when they were on their way to the promised land. Samuel had made it very plain to Saul that God wanted everything destroyed. But when he came back into town and went to salute Samuel, Samuel was not happy with him at all. The reason was that Saul had not obeyed the commandment of God and had saved Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, along with the best of their flocks and herds. Samuel had already heard of it from God, and also heard that God had repented that he had made Saul king over his people because he had not preformed his commandments. Saul was elated over his victory until he saw the frowning face of the prophet. And that is when he started "passing the buck." Samuel asked him why he had not obeyed the commandment of God and Saul insisted that he had. But when Samuel asked him what was the meaning of the bleating of sheep that he heard, his answer was, *"...They have brought them from the Amalekites: for the people spared the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the LORD thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed."* 1 Samuel 15:15 Saul put all the blame on the people but he was just as guilty as they, if not more since he was the king, their leader. When Saul gave the excuse that they had planned to make a huge sacrifice to God with all these sheep, Samuel said to him, *"... Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than*

the fat of rams." 1 Samuel 15:22 If you read the rest of the chapter, you will see that it was at that moment that God removed his blessing from Saul and took the kingdom from him and gave it to "another" (David). Although Saul could not be taken from his position until God took him in death, Saul never had the blessing of God again on his reign. God has some very strong principles when it comes to sin and obedience, and to cast blame gets you no where fast.

We start casting blame early in life. I remember a story that my mother told me about my brother when he was little. They used wash tubs back then, and there was a large one sitting out back of our house, placed there to dry. Somehow, my brother found a hammer and a nail and proceeded to make holes in the bottom of that wash tub. When it was discovered and they were asked about it, my brother looked around for a moment and said, "I saw a big dog in the yard a while ago!" Anybody but me, right? In children, sometimes these things seem cute and, honestly, they are hard to take seriously. But if a child is not gently and carefully corrected for this early in his life, he can develop a lifetime of blaming others for his sins. There is no forgiveness of sins when you have blamed them on someone else.

Children can be taught to reject responsibility for their sins by parents who make excuses for them. "I know he should not act that way, but I understand because I was that way when I was a child and know what he is feeling." This kind of thinking will only give the child a reason for his sin and he will never feel the guilt that would bring him to repentance. You do not help anyone by "understanding how they feel." Parents are condemning their children instead of bringing them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Sin is serious and can only be dealt with when taken seriously.

Everyone has been guilty of "passing the buck" in their lifetime. In our society, it is called "excuses." Sometimes excuses can be legitimate, but in most cases, they are just your way of escaping responsibility. You make the excuse of being tired, or not having enough time when your chores are not done well or not done at all. You blame your sibling for not waking you at the right time when you have an alarm clock beside your bed. You accuse someone else of making you grouchy when you are in a bad mood. Excuses are just a way of trying to make yourself look better by making someone else look bad.

In some instances, not even the sin of ignorance will help you. If a policeman pulls you over for a traffic violation that you were not familiar with and you say, "I am so sorry, Sir, I just did not know about that," he will ask you, "Do you have the driver's manual that you had to read to pass your driver's test?" If you say that you do, then he will say you have no excuse because the ordinance was listed in the book, and then he will hand you a ticket. You have no excuse, and the blame is your own.

Most people try to cast the blame for their temper or moodiness on their parents or their heritage. "I am just hot-tempered because I am Irish!" "Well, my mother always had problems with mood swings and I am just like her." Making excuses is a great weakness of character. There will always be characteristics passed from one

generation to another, but to use them as a way to excuse your sinful actions is more than wrong. If your excuse is, "I cannot help it, this is just the way I am," then you are saying that Jesus is not enough to change you, that he is not powerful enough or mighty enough to cleanse you from all unrighteousness. True, there are habits that are your own and must be dealt with through surrender and submission to Christ, but when you say you cannot overcome them, you are saying that you do not have enough love and regard for him to deny yourself the right to be the way you want to be.

There is no way for a person to be saved unless he knows that he is guilty of his *own* sins. Even the world knows this concept, for they always tell you that you can never get help from a problem until you realize you have one. They call it "denial". It is what every person will do when they come face to face with their sin. "It was not that bad, and I did not do the worst I could have done. I do not see what is so wrong, I did not hurt anyone and as far as I know, no one knows about it. I am sorry I did it but I will ask God to forgive me and no one has to know. I am not the only person who has done wrong and there are other people worse than me." In this way, the devil can develop a tight grip on your soul and convince you that you are right.

One of the hardest things to do is to realize that you have a problem and that you are at fault. I used to think, "If everybody else would just be nice, I could be, too!" As a mother, this is very destructive thinking. There are many times that the bad spirit comes from a discontented mother having to endure another day of disobedient children who will not listen. I found that it did make a difference if I started my morning with time alone with the Lord and had my heart full of joy before they ever came out of their rooms. Being with Christ gives you the joy that you can pass on to others that you meet. For a Christian to have a grumpy spirit and depend on the attitude of those around you in order to have joy is the poorest of testimonies. You are telling them that Christ is not enough to bring joy and peace in your life. You are saying that the cleansing blood of Jesus is not enough to help you become a new creature. Is that the testimony you want to have?

"Passing the buck" will never help you solve a problem. The only way to find real joy in your life is to honestly look into your own heart and admit that the problem is with you. Proverbs 28:13 says, "*He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.*" Trying to cover your own sins is like putting a towel over a dead animal to try to hide it. It will not be long before the stink will be overpowering and everyone will know. Only the blood of Jesus can take those sins, forgive you, and put them far away. To try to blame someone else for your sins is sinful, wrong, and eternally condemning. Do not be fooled by the devil that you are not to blame. Go to Jesus with your guilt and let him know, "The buck stops *here!*"

Questions for
Provoking Thought

Almost everyone has a problem with blaming others for their problems. By making others look bad, we think that it will make us look better, therefore we tear someone to pieces with our thoughts and words. (Funny how this never is directed to them but rather to someone else.) You may not think that you do this, but I challenge you to make yourself aware of your words and conversation with others about other people. Think about the following questions and challenges. It is good to put a virtual mirror in front of yourself from time to time and be accountable for your actions.

1. At the end of each day (or during the day if it helps you to remember), write down the times that you have spoken against someone or talked about their faults.
2. Do you join in the gossip session among the other girls who are talking in a huddle about someone?
3. When others are talking bad about a person, do you feel justified in listening if you do not join in with their comments?
4. Illness, weariness, and stress can cause us to be snappy at our family and friends. What are some ways that you can keep yourself from being hateful to others just because you are feeling bad?
5. David said, "*Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.*" (Psalms 139:23-24) Ask the Lord the same thing for your own life. Do this daily with a sincere heart and see what God will do.
6. When others blame you for something that is wrong, do not defend yourself. First, stop and think how you *could* be at fault, ask forgiveness for being negligent or thoughtless (even if you can not see your guilt) and keep a humble and sweet spirit. "*A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger.*" Proverbs 15:1 Be sure to record the reactions that you encounter.

Peppermint Cocoa Lip Balm

- 1/2 oz beeswax (approx. 3 tsp)
- 1 oz coconut oil (approx. 6 tsp)
- 1/4 oz cocoa butter (approx. 1 1/2 tsp)
- 1 1/2 tsp lanolin
- 3/4 tsp vitamin E
- 1 tsp liquid honey
- 3/4 tsp peppermint essential oil



In a small pot over low heat melt beeswax, coconut oil, cocoa butter, lanolin and vitamin E. Use a longish stick or small whisk to stir (a chopstick is perfect, or a wooden skewer).

Remove from heat and add honey and peppermint essential oil. Whisk well and try to distribute oil throughout the mixture - this is tricky. When you make it you'll see what I mean, there are little oil pockets that are hard to stir in.

Pour quickly into tins or jars, stirring mixture as you do so the oil doesn't separate. (if you do not have tins, small baby food jars work great). Let cool on counter till hard.

Healing 'Boo-Boo' Salve

a.k.a Homemade Natural Neosporin

1/2 cup coconut oil (proven to heal burns - plus it's anti-microbial, anti-bacterial, & a great moisturizer)

1/2 cup extra virgin olive oil (full of vitamins & a great moisturizer)

1/4 cup dried comfrey (an herb for healing wounds)

1/4 cup dried calendula (an herb for healing wounds & skin irritations)

2oz beeswax (equals out to 2 of the 1 oz. bars or 4 tablespoons)

2 tablespoons of honey (natural moisturizer with anti-microbial properties)

10 drops lavender essential oil (anti-bacterial, anti-microbial, & analgesic.)

1. You can either speed-infuse your oils by combining the coconut oil, olive oil, comfrey, & calendula in a medium saucepan and cooking on medium heat for 20-30 minutes, or, to get more of the "healing zip" from the herbs, soak them in ONLY the olive oil for 4-6 weeks in a dark, warm place. After that length of time, you would strain the herbs from the olive oil through cheesecloth or a coffee filter and then add the coconut oil.
2. Wipe out your saucepan thoroughly, then add the strained oil back into it, turning the heat to low. Stir in the honey at this point until mixed thoroughly. Then add grated or commercially chipped beeswax and allow this to melt completely. Remove from heat. Stir in the essential oil, if using, at this point.
3. Pour into the glass or tin container(s) of your choice. I like to use wide mouth 8 oz. mason jars.
4. Stir it occasionally with a wooden skewer while it cools to ensure that everything settles properly, especially the honey. Once it sets up, you're all done. Each batch makes 16 ounces.
5. Seal it up & keep it on hand for your boo-boos, diaper rash, & dry skin. It keeps for a year.

Crafts

Souvenir Coin Bracelet

Different places that you would visit during your summer vacation will have machines that take a penny, smash it and emboss it with the name and logo of the place you are visiting. These usually cost about fifty cents and are great little reminders of your vacation. Now you can take them and make a memory bracelet out of them! Simply drill a small hole on each end and add a jump ring. Five or six make a bracelet large enough to wear. If you like, add a few other charms you might have found along the way in between each one.



A Gift of Encouragement and Cheer

If someone close to you is going through a difficult time, or facing stressful hurdles like final exams, or just needs a little bit of sunshine from a friend, here is a great little idea for them. Pill organizers are inexpensive and can be purchased anywhere. Buy a few varieties of candies, mints and gum to separate in the little compartments. On a small strip of paper, write a Bible promise or a few words of encouragement that they can read each day.

Beaded Flip Flops

During the summer, flip flops are a must, and what better to have some that are pretty, too. Turn common flip flops into designer ones with ribbon, glue, a beading needle and strong thread, and some beads. Start by glueing the ribbon on the bottom of one strap and wrapping it all the way to the other side; glue that end down as well. (Use a strong glue, such as high-temp hot glue.) Now, starting at the "V", glue the ribbon and begin wrapping in a weaving pattern up the straps for about 2-3 inches. Glue the ribbon end well. Beginning at the "V", stitch on the first bead (you may want to add a little glue here and there are you sew them on) and add larger and smaller beads in the pattern you like, continuing down the straps as far as you prefer. This might even be an idea to use for a teen birthday or summer slumber party. You can find flip flops for \$1-\$2, and have plenty of beads on hand. (Get a closer picture by going to: <http://pinterest.com/pin/296111744219742858/>)



Recipes

Cinnamon Roll Pancakes with Cream Cheese Drizzle

(Recipe makes four.)

Cream Cheese Glaze:

4 T butter
3 ounces cream cheese, softened
1 1/2 cup powdered sugar
1/2 t vanilla extract
3-4 T milk

Pancakes:

1 1/2 cup flour
1 T baking powder
1/2 t salt
1 T brown sugar
1 T cinnamon
1 1/4 cups milk
1 large egg, lightly beaten
3T butter, melted
1 t vanilla extract

Directions:

1. Prepare the glaze: Melt butter in a saucepan on low; whisk in cream cheese until almost smooth. Sift in powdered sugar, stir and add vanilla. Set aside.
2. Prepare pancake batter: Combine flour, baking powder, salt, brown sugar, and cinnamon. Whisk together milk, egg, butter, and vanilla; gently stir into dry ingredients, just until batter is moistened; a few lumps are fine.
3. Heat skillet to medium heat. Spray with cooking spray and ladle 1/4 cup batter for each pancake into skillet. When more bubbles appear, carefully flip pancake and cook on other side. When done, flip pancake right side up on a plate. Wipe skillet with a paper towel before doing the next pancake. When all are ready, stack pancakes in individual plates and drizzle with glaze. No need for syrup! They are so very good! They taste like hot cinnamon rolls.



Slow Cooker Red Beans and Rice

Ingredients

1 pound dried red beans
3/4 pound smoked turkey sausage, thinly sliced
3 celery ribs, chopped
1 green bell pepper, chopped
1 red bell pepper, chopped
1 sweet onion, chopped
3 garlic cloves, minced
1 tablespoon Creole seasoning
Hot cooked long-grain rice
Hot sauce (optional)

Garnish: finely chopped green onions,
finely chopped red onion

Preparation

1. Combine first 8 ingredients and 7 cups water in a 4-qt. slow cooker. Cover and cook on HIGH 7 hours or until beans are tender.
2. Serve red bean mixture with hot cooked rice, and, if desired, hot sauce. Garnish, if desired.

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A good organization idea from Pinterest!

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